

JPRS-SEA-90-013
7 MAY 1990



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JPRS Report

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19990510 163

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SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22161

East Asia Southeast Asia

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By-Election Seen as Test of Opposition Strength

90SE0009A Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 15 Mar 90 p 14

[Text] Sungai Petani, 14 Mar—The Pantai Merdeka by-election here on 24 March will be yet another arena for more bitter politicking between the National Front [BN] and the opposition as the country's political machinery is geared up to face the next general elections.

The question drawing the attention of many people, particularly observers of current politics, is how far the alliance between PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party], Spirit of '46, BERJASA [Malaysian Islamic Council Front], and HAMIM [Muslim Front of Malaysia] will be accepted by the people in this district.

BN candidate Senator Haji Shuaib Lazim, 50, is opposed in the by-election by PAS candidate Datuk Haji Mohamad Muslim Othman, 53.

Judging from statements made by UMNO [United Malays National Organization] leaders and component parties in the last several days, the BN has great confidence that it will win the by-election easily, especially in view of BN performance in several past by-elections.

Among the BN's reasons for confidence is that it received the support of most of the district's residents in the 1986 general elections, when a former state legislature member, the late Ghazali Haji Bakar, won comfortably with a majority of more than 5,000 votes.

The by-election is being held because of Ghazali's death on 18 February.

Based on the results of past general elections, many BN leaders predict that the BN will not only win easily in the district but will in fact increase the size of its majority.

The MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association], MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress], and Gerakan are also confident that they will be able to attract voters of Chinese and Indian ancestry in the district to vote for the BN.

MCA Deputy Secretary-General Dr Ting Chew Peh was among those who recently expressed confidence that most of the more than 8,500 Chinese voters, who make up 33.1 percent of the 25,734 voters in the district, will support the BN.

Among the reasons he gave for this confidence that PAS and its opposition allies, including Spirit of '46, BERJASA, and HAMIM, will not get the support of Chinese voters is the opposition's espousal of an Islamic state.

Most leaders of the government party feel also that the present rapid development in Sungai Petani helps to give the BN a good image by demonstrating the government's success.

According to Dr Ting, development in Sungai Petani is the fastest among towns in Kedah.

"Thousands of jobs have been created, and thousands more will be opened in the city, which is among the country's most important industrial cities," he said.

He and several other leaders are also confident that voters in the district will definitely not want the BN government to be toppled, because they want benefits like this to be continued.

The opposition is also not lacking in confidence that it will defeat the BN in this by-election. Most of their confidence is based on the strength of the four Islamic parties in an alliance they call the "Islamic Unity Movement."

Speeches and statements by PAS leaders during the last several days have raised issues of public dissatisfaction about things that are more personal in nature.

For example, they raised the issue of the government's "tyranny" for not giving land to squatters in the Pantai Merdeka district, while approving thousands of hectares at Langkawi for big foreign businesses to build projects worth millions of ringgit.

Many political observers believe that PAS will continue to exploit public dissatisfaction in its campaigns because of what it sees as government extravagance.

As he "opened the curtain" on by-election campaign speeches last Saturday [10 March], PAS President Haji Fadzil Noor admitted that PAS confidence in winning the election is "not too great."

The party's vice president, Dr Daeng Sanusi Daeng Meriuk, said that historically it is rare for an opposition party to win a by-election. This fact forces the party to work hard to win the election.

Haji Fadzil also said that, although a PAS victory would not hurt overall BN power, a victory is important to make the government "aware" of the collective strength of the "Islamic Unity Movement."

Datuk Haji Muslim and Senator Shuaib, whom many consider to be "old enemies," once worked together in UMNO and are experienced in each other's tactics for winning the hearts of voters.—BERNAMA

PETRONAS Signs Letter of Intent With Chemical Companies

90OG0148E Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 1 Mar 90 p 18

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 28 Feb—PETRONAS [National Petroleum Company] has signed a letter of intent with two international companies for the establishment of two petrochemical projects involving investments totaling 2.16 billion ringgit (\$800 million).

The companies involved in the joint ventures are BP Plastics Limited PLC (BP) and Idemitsu Petrochemicals

Company (IPC), which will manage projects for the production of ethylene and polyethylene at Teluk Kalong, Terengganu.

Under the letter of intent, PETRONAS will hold 60 percent equity in the ethylene project, while BP will own 15 percent and IPC 25 percent.

PETRONAS will own 40 percent equity in the polyethylene project, while BP will own 45 percent and IPC 15 percent.

The ethylene project will have an investment of 1.35 billion ringgit (\$500 million) and the polyethylene project 180 [as published] million ringgit (\$300 million).

Ethylene, which is made from natural gas, is used extensively in the petrochemical industry, and polyethylene is made from ethylene. The two substances are used by industries that manufacture products made of plastics.

PETRONAS was represented at the signing of the letter of intent by its president, Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin. BP was represented by BP Petroleum PLC Administrative Director Hugh Norton, and IPC by Business Director H. Sakurai.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Tan Sri Azizan said the project will be financed by loans and equity.

At this time, he said, all parties are involved in studying project implementation details. Seventy percent of project financing will be through loans, and the balance will be in the form of equity.

Socialist Party Takes More Moderate Stand

90SE0008C Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 5 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 4 Mar—Under its new leadership, the Socialist People's Party of Malaysia (PSRM) has dropped all use of the term "socialism" from its constitution and has changed the orientation of its platform to a more moderate one.

This decision was reached here yesterday in its 23d national congress.

Consistent with this action, the congress, which was attended by 120 delegates, also changed the name of the party to the Malaysian People's Party (PRM).

The new PRM president, Professor Syed Husin Ali, told a press conference this afternoon that the congress had accepted a Central Committee working paper proposing that all references to "socialism" be dropped from their constitution.

The PRM will submit all revisions made under this decision to the Registrar of Societies for approval.

He said that for the sake of upholding democracy the party's aims and platform have been expanded to

include defense of the rights, interests, and prestige of all communal groups, particularly among the lower classes.

Similarly, Prof. Syed Husin announced that a more detailed program will be formulated to express the PRM's political, economic, and social position and platform.

Explaining again why the new leadership feels it necessary to alter the PSRM name, Prof. Syed said PRM was actually the original name of the party before it was changed to PSRM in 1970.

"We acknowledge the fact that we have made mistakes, such as restricting our policy to ideology alone.

"In the past, we overemphasized acceptance of socialistic ideology as the important prerequisite for membership. Now, however, members, too, feel we need to change our platform to one based on programs that are in line with the desires and aspirations of the people and the nation," he asserted.

This does not mean, however, that the PRM automatically rejects from membership people who have a socialistic philosophy, Prof. Syed Husin said.

He said the PRM is not abolishing socialism but is letting the people decide whether the ideology is necessary.

"We want to open the door to everyone, and we also want to make the PRM a party that can be joined by nationalists, fundamentalists, and anyone else, as long as they have a record untainted by slander and tyranny," he said further.

According to Prof. Syed Husin, the plan for changing the party's name and platform was initiated in 1986 at the congress held at Johor Baharu.

The new PRM secretary-general, Professor Madya Dr Sanusi Osman, was also present and said the changes made in the PSRM are immense.

"The PRM now has changed from an ideological party to a party of the masses," he said.

All members agree that in order to expand the party's influence it should not limit its policies, he added.

He said that under present conditions socialism has no place in the public agenda. Realizing this fact, the PRM needs to return to its original platform.

Prof. Syed Husin added, "This is a party for the lower classes, and we want the people to unite under the PRM umbrella."

Asked whether the party might join the Islamic Unity Movement [Angkatan] sponsored by PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] and Spirit of '46, Prof. Syed Husin said that because the PRM is open to all communal groups and religions it naturally cannot join Angkatan.

He emphasized, however, that the PRM respects Angkatan, which wants to make Islam the way of life.

When asked about PRM's preparations for the general elections under its new leadership, Prof. Syed Husin stated that they had held several unofficial meetings with DAP [Democratic Action Party], PAS, and Spirit of '46 to seek points of agreement for forming a strong opposition alliance.

"We will definitely compete, but no decision has been made as to the areas we will focus on," he said.

In the 2-day congress that began last Friday [2 March], the 30,000-member PRM chose a former secretary-general, Hassan Karim, to be deputy secretary-general and selected a former acting PSRM chairman, Razak Ahmad, to be deputy president.

The congress changed the position of chairman to that of president and established three previously nonexistent vice president positions.

Arokiadass, a former Internal Security Act (ISA) detainee under Operation Lallang, was elected to the Central Working Committee.

MCA: APU Call for Islamic State 'Dangerous'

90SE0008A Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 12 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 11 Mar—MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] President Datuk Sri Dr Ling Liong Sik today urged everyone of Chinese descent throughout the country to vote in the next elections to foil the scheme devised by the Spirit of '46, DAP [Democratic Action Party], and PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party].

Datuk Sri Dr Ling said the country still needs the National Front for its concept of moderation, in which it represents all races and religions.

"Chinese should remember that no party other than the National Front can represent them, for the National Front is founded on the principle of multiple races, religions, and cultures.

"The Spirit of '46, DAP, and PAS, who are allied under the Islamic Unity Movement (APU), cannot be an alternative," Datuk Sri Dr Ling said to a gathering of MCA members at the MCA Building here on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the party.

He said the opposition recently has been carrying on a campaign for an alternative government to replace the National Front.

"This is very dangerous, because it could destroy the principle of plurality of races, religions, and cultures on which the independence of the country was founded," he declared.

Datuk Sri Dr Liong said that in his opinion there is no better alternative than the National Front for perpetuating peace, stability, and harmony.

He added that the Chinese community should realize that the opposition's alternative is a totally Islamic state.

"If an extremist Islamic state is permitted, extremism will be unrestricted, and disorder will result," the MCA president declared.

In an extremist Islamic state, he said, people of Chinese descent would not be allowed to hold government positions nor be permitted to vote.

Non-Muslims would be in a more difficult situation, Datuk Sri Dr Ling said, and their rights would be snatched from them.

"A bad alternative is not an alternative," he said.

Speaking to reporters afterward, the MCA president said he believed that if DAP is cooperating with PAS it naturally thinks as PAS does.

"If PAS wants an Islamic state, DAP must go along," he added.

According to Datuk Sri Dr Ling, the people understand the opposition's plot, and they are expected to foil it.

In reply to a question, Datuk Sri Dr Ling said the MCA supports the policy of applying Islamic values as practiced by the National Front government, since the policy is founded on universal values.

Values of helping one another, doing good, and honest conduct in the eyes of the people, which are at the core of Islamic values, are also the teachings of other religions, such as Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism, he said.

He said also that the MCA does not expect any change in its allocation of seats in the next elections.

The MCA president said in his speech that the party is confident of the system practiced by the National Front, which has successfully led the country for 33 years with political stability, good government, economic stability, and equitable development.

"If there are weaknesses, however, we believe Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Ghafar Baba will be able to resolve them for the further strengthening of cooperation among component parties," Datuk Sri Dr Ling said.

He said National Front critics should join the party in order to bring about change, for that way is better than sitting outside and challenging the system from outside.

Datuk Sri Dr Ling said that in commemorating MCA's 41st anniversary he wants all party members to practice positive thinking and not to be disturbed by trivial matters.

This morning's reception was enlivened by a dance program based on Malaysian concepts, in which dancers in Malaysian dress performed dances to Chinese rhythms.

UMNO Youth Seeks Ties With Malay Students in U.S.

*90SE0008B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 10 Mar 90 p 11*

[Text] The UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth Movement now has a clearer plan for beginning to strengthen its ties with Malaysian students in the United States.

This is illustrated by several decisions made by the movement's president, Datuk Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, who apparently wants to organize the thousands of Malay students here to further the UMNO struggle through its youth wing. It is also clear that the youth organization wants to produce capable and effective cadres for continuing with the Youth Movement's struggle when they ultimately return to Malaysia.

It cannot be denied that these future leaders have a broad perspective because of their education in an atmosphere that is very different from that in their homeland. This important perspective is a result of the attention and thought they have given to conditions around them.

This perspective needs to be guided in order for it to be useful. Recognizing this fact, the movement wants to provide a political aspect to strengthen further the perspective that the students already have, said Haji Mohamed Nazri Tan Sir Abdul Aziz Yeop, chairman of the Youth Movement's International Bureau.

The Youth Movement wants to enhance political awareness among students via the UMNO clubs. If this is not done, the students will return to their homeland with an ignorance of Malay and national political struggles.

Malay students should always be reminded that the opportunity to study abroad is provided by the sweat of their people. When they return, they need to repay their debt by involvement in religious, ethnic, and national development.

Many observers here feel that Datuk Sri Najib's decision to strengthen ties with students through this structure is "just in time."

"It is still not too late," said an observer who did not wish to be identified. He said this because up to now there has not been any structure for contacts between the UMNO clubs and the Youth Movement. This has been a very visible weakness in the organizational structure.

The visit to the United States by members of the Youth Movement's Executive Council naturally is the focus of

attention of all Malay students, particularly in connection with creation of a lasting relationship between the two spheres.

"The Youth Movement has wanted to meet students here, but it has been hindered by UMNO's instability over the last 3 or 4 years. All UMNO members were needed to resolve that," said Haji Ahmad Zahid, Youth Movement information chief.

He said that under Datuk Sri Najib's leadership the Youth Movement feels it is time for the movement to move in the direction of strengthening ties between the movement and students abroad.

One of Datuk Sri Najib's recommendations was to invite representatives of UMNO clubs to participate in Youth Movement meetings. In the past, representatives of UMNO clubs were given opportunity to speak only at UMNO general assemblies.

This step is appropriate for the students themselves, who more easily interact with people of their own generation, and by being closer the representatives of UMNO clubs overseas will be better able to feel the heartbeat of the Youth Movement's struggle.

One of the organizational weaknesses of the UMNO clubs in the United States is the lack of coordination among them. There are only four clubs now, and the situation probably will become more complicated as the number of clubs grows.

What is now necessary here, Datuk Sri Najib recommended further, is the creation of a presidential council to unite the clubs.

"Such a group would not differ from the UMNO liaison committees," said Ahmad Bhari Abdul Rahman, president of Selangor UMNO Youth.

It is rational to create a council, said Datuk Sri Najib, so that it can reflect the perspective of UMNO clubs from all over the United States. Similarly, the political perspective from the homeland can be channeled to the council and then to club members.

"That will facilitate information and contacts," said Datuk Sri Najib.

It is now up to the UMNO clubs here to take steps to implement the recommendation so that activities can be coordinated and expanded.

The Youth Movement also decided to make annual visits to the United States in order to provide information on the latest developments in Malaysia. Such an effort is very much needed and should be as broad as possible so that students all over the United States can be visited.

On his recent visit, Datuk Sri Najib and his delegation visited students in Stockton, California. From there the delegation split in two. Datuk Sri Najib went to St.

Louis, Boston, and Washington, DC. The group headed by Haji Mohamed Nazri met students in Tucson, Denver, and Charlotte and then rejoined the others in Washington, DC.

Sabah Facing Serious Illegal Immigrants Problem

42000061A Manila *MANILA CHRONICLE* in English
18 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Kota Kinabalu—In 1973, at the height of fighting between Muslim rebels and the Philippine government, Alagi Tutong fled in a small boat from the southern Philippine island at Tawi-Tawi to the Malaysian state of Sabah.

Martial law declared by President Ferdinand Marcos to quell the 1972-78 civil war has long since ended. But Alagi has not returned to his homeland and perhaps never will.

"Life here is all right. There is enough to eat. I don't want to go back," said Alagi, 54, now headman of a village of 5,000 Filipino immigrants living on Gaya Island, a 10-minute boat ride from Sabah's capital Kota Kinabalu.

Sabah is reluctant host to a staggering 500,000 mostly illegal immigrants—350,000 Filipinos and 150,000 Indonesians—who now comprise over a third of the timber-rich state's 1.4 million population.

They represent a mammoth headache for the tribal-based Christian government of the state on Borneo island and complicate ties between Malaysia and the Philippines, which has a long-standing territorial claim on Sabah.

Alagi lives in a simple wooden house built on stilts over the sea which echoes with the screams of barefoot waifs running along the narrow gangways leading to a wooden mosque erected near a beach strewn with plastic bottles and other flotsam.

Police blame the immigrants for most crimes in Sabah and politicians say they take away jobs from locals, cause political instability and could pose a health hazard because of the appalling conditions in which some of them live.

A measles epidemic on Gaya Island killed 47 children in two months in 1987.

Sabah Police Chief Syed Othman Syed Ali said immigrants account for 65 percent of crimes committed.

In 1988 alone, Sabah police shot dead 43 suspected criminals—all of them foreigners. Sabahans say the Filipinos, who arrived in droves between the early and mid-1970s, brought with them the "gun culture" of the troubled province of Mindanao.

While new field force units have been set up recently, the combined security force in the state totalling 4,900 is inadequate to police the coastline, officials said.

The ruling Bersatu Sabah Party (PBS) under Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan has accused the predominantly Muslim federal government under Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of dragging its feet over the immigrant issue.

The PBS has had uneasy ties with Kuala Lumpur since toppling a federal-backed state government in 1985. It wants immigration to be handled at the state level, a request Kuala Lumpur has refused.

Kitingan also wants the Philippines to set up a consulate in his state to handle immigration, but diplomats say this would be tantamount to Manila recognizing Sabah as being part of Malaysia.

Sabah was ceded in 1877-78 to the British North Borneo Company by the sultans of Brunei and Sulu, which is now part of the Philippines. Manila has claimed it was not a cession but a lease and severed diplomatic ties with Kuala Lumpur when Sabah joined the federation of Malaysia in 1963.

While ties have been restored the issue remains a bone of contention between the two countries. To complicate matters, authorities in Manila say rebels in the southern Philippines are receiving guns and ammunition smuggled through Sabah.

The immigrants will eventually outnumber locals as they have a higher birth rate than that of Sabahans, local academics said without giving figures.

"They are diluting the population of Sabah. There will be repercussions in years to come for our children and our children's children," said a senior PBS politician.

The predominantly Muslim immigrants have upset Sabah's delicate racial balance and there are fears that a collective immigrant political consciousness could emerge, he said.

Sabah's non-immigrant population comprises about 45 percent Christian tribal Kadazans and Muruts and 30 percent Muslim Malays, Suloks and Bajaus, with ethnic Chinese making up much of the remainder.

The PBS accuses the Muslim-based United Sabah National Organization party for deciding to let in immigrants during its 1967-76 rule in an attempt to strengthen its political base.

PBS officials say as many as tens of thousands of immigrants may have been given identity cards making them eligible to vote. The officials say these people are likely to vote for the Muslim party.

Federal officials declined to say how many immigrants have been given citizenship.

But there is no question the immigrants are here to stay.

They take up jobs as laborers, plantation workers and waitresses and have become such an integral part of the Sabah workforce that the local economy would collapse without them.

"Sabahans are not used to hard work. We let them take jobs we didn't want and now we can't live without them," said a Kadazan driver. "We are as much to blame."

Interview With General Edgardo Abenina

42000048A Manila NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English
14 Feb 90 pp 18-20, 22, 46

[Text] On January 29, General Edgardo Abenina, tagged as one of the ringleaders of the unsuccessful December coup, was arrested in a house on Tandang Sora Street, Quezon City, by some 80 troopers from the National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC), the Intelligence Service and the newly formed Counter-Intelligence Command. Arrested along with the general were two military officers still on active duty, Major Napoleon Castro and Captain Artemio Moises.

A 1958 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA], Abenina carried a million-peso price on his head. An advisory on wanted coup plotters, issued by the AFP Civil Relations Service early in January, described the general thus: "Height: 5'4"; hair: black; eyes: brown; build: light."

General Renato de Villa, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, described Abenina's arrest as "a big blow" to the military rebels, "considering that [Abenina] has been playing a significant role in the planning and coordination and the recruitment of forces and the solicitation of resources that they could have used in the past."

The arrest was not Abenina's first. He had previously been detained for his involvement in the August 1987 coup attempt, but had managed to escape from Camp Crame at the height of the December coup.

On January 10, just days before his second arrest, Abenina had himself interviewed "somewhere in Central Luzon" by a media group that included MANILA TIMES columnist Horacio "Boy" Morales and DAILY GLOBE reporter Julius Fortuna. Present at the interview was Lt. Col. Rodolfo "Rac" Tor, a 1972 PMA graduate who was at one time detailed with the 5th Constabulary Security Unit, and who now has a P500,000 price on his head.

In the interview General Abenina claimed that the coup plotters' coalition had changed the meaning of RAM in Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Nationalist Reformist Movement], and that its platform of government called for "social change within a democratic system that will emphasize social and economic justice."

In his account, Fortuna also wrote: "Asked what foreign model, if any, the coup plotters are following, Abenina said 'we are looking at the good aspects of the Ataturk government.' He was referring to Kemal Ataturk (born 1881), who founded modern Turkey after leading his people's fight for independence from the Ottoman Empire and European colonizers."

NATIONAL MIDWEEK obtained a transcript of the interview from Morales. Unfortunately, the transcript is based on a tape that goes wayward at one point, which is probably why the remarks on Ataturk are missing. Like

virtually all MIDWEEK interviews, this one, in addition to being shortened, has been slightly edited for clarity, style and idiomatic usage, but as always care has been taken to ensure that the ideas have not been distorted; they remain those of the interviewee.—Ed.

[Morales] Tell us about your organization.

[Abenina] I'd like to spell out the meaning of RAM. Prior to 1986, we felt that the existence of RAM was relevant, especially with the situation in the Armed Forces. But after 1986—and this is where the propagandists of the Armed Forces are concentrating—we have lost the relevance of RAM. RAM now means Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan—Nationalist Reformist Movement.

So, we have the group of Gringo [Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan]. These are the young officers who are very idealistic; they are bound by the same idealism they had prior to 1986. We feel—I feel—that they are purists. They would have hardly united with the Loyalists, represented by Jim Zumel [Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel], had it not been for higher meaning, a higher objective that we established. Modesty aside, it was I who brought them together. Jim and Gringo are like oil and water; they would hardly ever meet. 'Yong identity ni Jim bilang Loyalist, identity ni Gringo as Rammist [Jim's identity is that of a loyalist, whereas Gringo's identity is that of a Rammist], if there is such a term—nawala 'yan [it got lost somewhere]. Because we started talking about the welfare of the country.

Now, added to these groups—kay Gringo [that is Gringo] who is identified closely with Senator Enrile, and Zumel who is identified with the interests of the KBL—ay 'young group namin [that is our group]. I will not mention the names in my group, except here, si Colonel Tor. We provide the moderating influence between the Loyalists and the purists.

From the very beginning, prior to August 1987, I had my own group. We were four generals then. Two of them are dead; they died in accidents.

When we came in, we arrived at a simple agreement, that we would all work for the country only. And we can only work for the country if we take into consideration the welfare of the citizens.

Prior to the launching of the December First Movement, contrary to what the Armed Forces is saying, we did not consult with any politicians. All the planning and the thinking, all the activities were undertaken by us. He [pointing to Colonel Tor] came from the highest level of planning, and he can tell you that; lahat ng ginawa namin noong December 1, sa kanilang utak 'yon [everything that we did on December 1 came from them, a result of their own thinking and planning]. We did not receive foreign funding. No foreigners helped us. Whatever

funding we got came from friends here. Purely local. We literally passed the hat around.

[Morales] There is a nagging suspicion that a group within the unified group has talked with the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency]. Is there truth to this report?

[Abenina] They perceive that because Gringo was picked up from Camp Aguinaldo during the August 1987 coup by an American helicopter. They always perceive Gringo to be talking with the CIA. But in my honest conversation with Gerg, there was no contact with the CIA. His contact with the CIA then, in August 1987, was through Captain Victor Raphael, a kumpadre of his [a godfather of his child]. But since then he has had no more contacts with the American embassy or with the CIA. Wala kaming contact sa CIA [We don't have any contact with the CIA]. And that was what we decided—we will not get in touch with the CIA, we will not be made instruments of the CIA.

We would like to talk directly with the U.S. government and explain to them what we are fighting for, and our policies in relation to the U.S. government, and more specifically in relation to the U.S. bases. We would like to talk to them, but we will not take their advice. We would like to deal with them on an equal plane. They must respect our Philippine sovereignty totally, and they must respect our rights. While we may have some interest essentially affected by the presence of the U.S. bases here, we shall put, above all, our love for our country, our sovereignty, before we put perhaps economic priorities or considerations.

Because ang talagang gusto natin ngayon [what we really want now is]—we like to be totally independent. We like to be independent of U.S. dictation. We cannot do away with the American influence because of our economic state, but I think that at a diplomatic level we can attain a degree of independence and freedom from the Americans. Sabi ko nga [I've said you see], if we shall open our gates, not only to the Americans but equally to the world, we will be assured of diplomatic independence from American diplomatic influence and possibly economic colonialism in the Philippines.

These are very rough ideas that we are taking up right now.

We have a long list of possible officials we shall appoint to the government. And you will find that on this list there is no traditional politician. Now, I cannot speak of the names of these people right now. Baka mapahamak ang mga ito [They might be harmed]. These are civilians, experts in their own field, dedicated to the community. We try to determine how dedicated they are to the community. We will not take an expert in economics if his interest is so enlarged, tulad ni [like that of] [Industry Secretary Jose] Concepcion or the multinationals. Ang dapat na orientation natin ay [our orientation must be] towards society, towards the people.

[Morales] How about your policy towards the media?

[Abenina] The media should be the medium of contact between the government and the people. The media should be able to extract the information that the people would like to know. We had a long discussion on this. Sabi nila [They said that], "Upon our taking of power, we will close down media, we will maintain only one newspaper, one radio, one TV." Sabi ko [But I said that], "No, they should be able to operate freely, because it is only the media that can tell what is wrong with this barangay captain, what is wrong with this businessman. Pag tayo naging paranoid, iisipin natin—lahat ng tao, lahat ng galit sa atin, ilagan natin iyan. Masamang magkaroon tayo ng mental state na lahat ng nagkikisyon ng [If we become paranoid, then we start thinking—that all the people, all those who are angry at us, we should avoid them. It is bad for us to have a mental state whereby all those who question the] government positions or behavior ay [engaged in] destabilizing activities, which is very wrong."

By the way, ang formation natin [our formation before] noon, there is a governing council composed of the three of us—Zumel, Honasan, and Abenina. These are the military personalities in the governing council. Plus, from four to six civilians. Ayaw na naming mag-refer na sa Gringo's [We don't want anyone to refer to us as that of Gringo's] group, Abenina's group, Loyalists' group. There is only one group—ourselves put together now. There is only one group now. Iisa na lang—nationalist reformist.

[Morales] Wala bang posibilidad na, pagkatapos, kayo naman ang magaway-away [Isn't there a possibility that, later on, you will fight among yourselves]?

[Abenina] We looked into that seriously, openly. Sabi namin [We told ourselves], "We don't have to sign anything. What is important is our heart. Do we agree with these ideas?" any tanong ko sa kanila [I asked them this]. "Kuwana," ang promise ni Greg, "walang gano'nan." At [iyon din ang] sabi ni Jim. ["Watchmacallit," Greg promised this, "no such thing will ever happen." And Jim said the same thing.]

Sabi ko nga, [I also said,] "We will not quarrel about power. My promise is, I am retirable April this year. Pagdating ng retirement date ko [When my retirement date comes], I will retire, retire from the government."

Jim is retiring—kailan ba ang birthday ni Jim? [when is Jim's birthday?]—November 3 this year, 1990. He will reach the age of 56. The replacement of people getting out will be continuous, and everyone should be motivated by only one thing, and that is love of country.

We initially discussed that there might be a counter-coup. We discussed this openly, and we were able to address the problem correctly, and we do not foresee such things anymore. If there are varied interests among the leadership, this happens. But I have no desire to stay in government. I want to be a simple farmer. That is how it goes right now.

The average officer, the average sundalo, is an honest faithful servant. Nagkaroon sila ng [However, they would have] varied interests when the leaders themselves abused their power. Pag ang regional commander, inako 'yong pay at nangongolekta, 'yong poor soldier, sasabihin: "Maliit na nga 'yong suweldo ko.: This is how the budget in the Armed Forces is being spent. 'Yong sundalo, hirap; na hirap. Ibebenta 'yong bala. [When the regional commander, in addition to his salary, collects money from the soldiers/people, then the poor soldier will say, "How could he do this? My salary is already too little." The soldier, extremely hard up would sell the bullets.]

(Something went wrong with the tape at this point, while Abenina was speaking very emotionally about the plight of the soldier).

This is my idea—a federal form [of government] so that nasa-satisfy kaagad natin ang mga tao. Sabi ko nga, [so that we can satisfy the people immediately. I told them so,] this is my idea. I don't know how to do this. We will call the experts, the panel of advisers, the political advisers, the economic advisers, etc. I have talked with a number of politicians, active and inactive right now, and they have accepted their role. "Puwede ho bang medyo sa tabi kayo? Sa nakalipas na panahon, wala kayong nagawa," ["Could you just stay in the background? In the past, you did nothing,"] we told them.

"Oo. Ano'ng gagawin namin? [Yes, what should we do?] When you think you have put this nation on the right track, ano'ng gawain namin?" [tell us, what should we do?]

Sabi ko, "Bawal kama! [I told the, hands off]. We will declare an election."

Ang sabi ko nga [Then I told them so], "I don't know...I don't want to talk very much about this. But you can pick it up from there."

Sabi ko nga [Then I said], "At the time of the calling of election, lahat kami [all of us], those who have served the government for the last ten years, should be barred from joining the election."

(The question at this point is indistinct, but judging from the answer it had something to do with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army).

I have a very strong feeling of optimism that the CPP-NPA is watching us, really wanting to find out what we are, who we are. Because [we're fighting for] many of the causes the NPA is fighting for right now—justice, give them medicines, no violations of human rights. For so long as the Communist Party of the Philippines [renounces] the armed struggle and dismantles the NPA—this is my personal feeling, but this is [also] the predominant feeling among the officers—we will allow it.

[Morales] Parang Portugal ito [Is this like Portugal]?

[Abenina] Well, there are many nations [with legal Communist parties]—Spain, Portugal, the United States, France.

[Morales] Are you in a position to mount another coup?

[Abenina] I will say yes, not only optimistically, not because I want it to happen, but because [it will] happen.

[Morales] [Finance Secretary Jesus] Estanislao has prepared a nine-week plan to remove the basis of another coup.

[Abenina] They can come up with the plans, [but] for so long as they are in government, there will be some (indistinct). So long as the posture of the Aquino government will not change, if she does not keep her promises, as long as her officials are there...

I may be killed or captured, but some people will continue planning for a coup. We have become very much politically aware about our country, about our economy, our political mendicancy [dependency] to the United States, about everything that is happening here. What analysts said—that 80 to 90 percent of the officers of the Armed Forces right now grew up during the turbulent years from the Sixties to the Seventies—[is true]. When he (pointing to Colonel Tor) was a student at the PMA, he was demonstrating in the streets. These were the student leaders. When they entered the PMA, they became more nationalistic. Because it is now our life that is at stake.

I am risking my life to fight the NPA, I am risking my life to fight the criminals—only to make sina Aquino [and company] rich. Walang mangyayari sa ating country [Nothing (good) will (ever) happen in our country]. In the Philippines, you can hardly find a middle class. There is no more middle class in the Philippines. Marginalized na [It is just marginal]. It's either the very rich or very poor.

[Morales] Would snap elections be acceptable to you as a solution?

[Abenina] It will be acceptable to us provided that conditions we have laid down will be followed.

[Morales] These are...?

[Abenina] Cory should not run. And there should be no cheating or vote-buying.

[Morales] Ano'ng basa ninyo kay Mrs. Aquino? [What's your reading of Mrs. Aquino? (What do you think of Mrs. Aquino?)]

[Abenina] She is bent on keeping her power. She will not risk losing it.

[Morales] Not even in a snap election?

[Abenina] Not even in a snap election.

[Morales] Ano'ng tingin ninyo sa kaso ni Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo? [What do you think of Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo's case]

[Abenina] Ang tingin namin diyan [This is how we look at it], the suspension of Rudy Aguinaldo is the initiation of some powers eventually to put him in jail. Once he is suspended, he can be isolated. Pag na-weaken na siya [When he is already weakened], they will file criminal charges against him. Knowing Rudy Aguinaldo as he [pointing to Colonel Tor] does, hindi nila matitinag 'yon [they can't be sure of that].

(At this point, Abenina was apparently asked to comment on specific issues and problems).

[Morales] Programa ng land reform? [How about your land reform program?]

[Abenina] We don't call it a land reform, we call it land distribution. Land use/distribution and productivity. First we shall distribute government lands, priority 'yan [that's our priority]. Our intention is to enlarge our agricultural productive base. Not to subdivide it unnecessarily. We shall develop agricultural production bases. And we shall bring the people there who shall work on the land. We shall provide the infrastructure, the road network and, if possible, koryente [electricity], and the school buildings, public market, bahay nila [houses for them]. Gagawa tayo ng mga [We shall make/build] construction divisions and armed forces.

Our armed forces are copied after the U.S. armed forces, so we put up a seemingly capable strong armed forces—waiting for an enemy to come that will never come in our lifetime. Can you tell of any country that threatened us right now? 'Yong tangke natin, gagawin natingbulldozer [We will turn our tanks into bulldozers], something that is needed at the present time. When we are capable, then we can dream of a great army and put up a defensive structure. In the meantime, community-based 'yan [that is community-based].

Manpower natin, nandiyang [That's where our manpower is], sleeping 24 years a day, being fed and clothed by the government. Hindi yata nakakarating ang pera doon, kaya [You see, money does not reach the local communities, the poor, that's why] they are foraging in the countryside.

I was talking to a doctor and there was a management inventory of hospitals. Medical service is hardly at the level of 40 percent. Napupunta lahat sa [All went into] graft and corruption. This is documented by a group who made a study of this.

[Morales] [Private landholdings.]

[Abenina] We shall provide a law whereby a part of the lands will be owned by the people, part of it will be given away. When we shall have become totally productive, we don't have to import rice, soya. Believe it, wheat can be produced here. Once we shall have attained self-sufficiency, there will be no more need for people crying,

"We need land!" People need land right now dahil ang [because the] sources of food right now are becoming smaller right now.

[Morales] [People's organizations.]

[Abenina] We need NGOs, people organizations. The government cannot do it alone. That is the basic error of this government. Government should provide the necessary vehicles.

You are the source of power, you are the source of wealth, you are the source of everything. We've been used to the idea that [people] will not move unless they are told by the government. No. The government should move because they are told by the people.

That's why we can start from the barangay unit. It is from there that we will derive the power of the national government. It will help in the census and inventory of all properties of the barangay. The barangay council will be the one to collect taxes. 'Tapos, 'yong portion ng barangay, iiwan doon [then the portion of the barangay will not be touched]. It will be a unit of government, with the power to hire and fire.

We will provide for a strong audit system. We shall have a system of town managers. We will be economic-oriented any time. We shall look at the operations of the budget of businesses established in the country. We will not meddle with the business. If San Miguel's budget for advertisement is four billion, we will ask them to build one hundred hospitals, at 'yong dingding ng hospital mo, pakuan mo ng advertisement—Cola, Magnolia. Maglagay ka ng outlet doon, para 'yong mga tao, doon bibili. [and on the walls of the hospitals, there will be advertisements—Cola, Magnolia. There will be outlets there, so people will go there to buy.]

So, that is the social concern we would like to develop among people. Our business [should] be oriented towards socialism and nationalism. We have asked a few people to look at our program. We will come out with a political platform. We will try to come out with platform for a Federal Republic of the Philippines. Ours will be democratic government with the welfare of the people, the basic needs of society, at heart.

[Morales] [The More National Liberation Front.]

[Abenina] We have entered into a covenant with the MNLF right now. We recognize the Muslims' right now. We recognize the Muslims' right to autonomy. And we have offered to them the federalism concept, and they like the idea.

[Morales] Can [your problems with the government] be solved by peaceful means?

[Abenina] They can be solved through peaceful means. The problem is, so long as President Aquino is very adamant in retaining her present political post, nothing can be solved. There is no visible and sincere act by the President that will reach the level of reconciliation.

Reconciliation should be done at a higher level, with the objective of unifying the country. For so long as the country is fragmented politically, for so long as there is a Cory group, a Laurel group, an Enrile group, there is no reconciliation, the country will not progress.

[Morales] Is the military politicized? Will that lead to a military dictatorship?

[Abenina] The AFP is very much politicized, because of our upbringing—we started thinking—and also because of our nationalism. If we let the government go on, corruption will go on. [Magising] totally bankrupt at Communist tayo [We will become totally bankrupt and we will become Communists]. We feel that the culture of the Filipino has been so corrupted that the only way to reorient the culture of the Filipino is to change the system.

We have the capability to do this, and we have the sincerity to do it. That may be too much arrogance, but we are capable of doing it. We have the sincerity. But the thing is, at the rate the government is destroying the Armed Forces, the Armed Forces must itself correct the deficiencies. And the way to do this—we failed to do this after 1986—was through a political measure, through a political structure.

I can speak for myself. I feel that we should not govern the country, not be politicians. Get a new breed of people. Try to look for Filipinos who have the ability to be political leaders.

It is a pity that the soldier does not get the medicine. If you allow the government to do it this way, we shall all become paupers. It is not that we want to become leaders, it is that we want to give other Filipinos other chances. There are no more chances for employment in this country. Everyone looking for a job has to be recommended by a politician. They have removed all these chances. No more equal chances.

The disease of the society has become so cancerous that if you do not cut it off...

[Morales] [Reform.]

[Abenina] President Aquino can still do it. She has to revamp the AFP.

[Morales] [U.S. bases.]

[Abenina] The bases will terminate in 1991. We feel strongly that the terms of the agreement should be enforced. Since there are nuances in the immediate withdrawal of the bases, the agreement should be amended to provide for a phasing out of the facilities and the resettlement of the Filipino labor that will be displaced.

[Morales] How many years [will the phaseout take]?

[Abenina] I really don't know. We will approach the validity of the possible request of the Americans to phase

the removal of the bases, because it would be physically impossible to phase them out overnight. And we have to think of our labor force being nonemployed. There should be a gradual phaseout for a period. The Americans must agree to this. There must be a resettlement fund. The U.S. government must pay for those being displaced from bases. It must pay for the use of the bases. We should not call it aid, but rental.

[Morales] What was the effect of "persuasion flights" [made by U.S. Phantom jets during the December coup]?

[Abenina] The persuasion flights brought a lot of annoyance to many young officers. The young officers will not be persuaded by the American air force.

[Morales] Is regional security served by the bases?

[Abenina] I think so, yes. If you like to think that there is an intention of the Russians or the Chinese to occupy this part of the world, then the bases have served [regional security]. But in the meantime, we must renegotiate, especially [during] the phaseout period. If they can phase out within six months, well and good. But that period of six months will have to be negotiated. They will have to continue paying rent. They must put up a settlement fund, and they have to respect our sovereignty.

Sabi ko nga [I told you so], in my letter to Senator [Joseph] Estrada: "By asking the Americans to bomb Filipinos, and the Americans responded, the nationalism of this government has been lost."

[Morales] [A military training program in the United States, in which Abenina was a participant.]

[Abenina] I was not impressed by the Americans. The strategic intention of the program is to find adherence to the American system, the American establishment.

[Morales] [Former Navy Captain Danilo Vizmanos' proposal on the establishment of a citizens' army.]

[Abenina] I am not familiar [with the proposal]. My idea is to put up a territorial army. We shall reduce the standing army by more than 50 percent. The standing army is 200,000 strong, but the number of the fighting army is about 80,000. We shall have a system of reservists. By doing so, we drastically cut the appropriations for the Armed Forces. Right now, a large part of the budget goes to the personnel, because we have a very large army base. A large part of expenses go to retirement benefits. Every time we get promoted, we get a raise. Every three to five years, increases.

If we shall be able to carry out our program, the cause the NPA is fighting for will be practically totally wiped out, and we will allow the Communist Party to operate if they will lay down their arms. If other countries can allow Communist parties to operate, why can't we?

[Morales] If you yourselves are using arms to fight the government, why should you fault the NPA for using arms?

[Abenina] The NPA is different. The NPA is fighting to supplant the government with a totally different kind of governmental ideology. That is the fault of President Aquino. Our purpose is not to take her out of office. We are fighting to institute reforms. We are only advocating a democratic form of government. This is where we and the Communist Party differ.

[Morales] [The coup leaders' manifesto on multinationals.]

[Abenina] The multinationals can come in. They can do business here. But part of their earnings should be used for development. Profits should be not controlled or regulated but should be done in a manner that this will not weaken our economy. MNCs set up companies according to our laws, then they use our financial resources, like, for example, the loans given by SSS [the Social Security System] to MNCs in several billions of pesos. If the money loaned [to multinationals] will be directed to the countryside, it can do a lot to help our people. MNCs drain our resources.

[Morales] [The governing body or governing council of the coup makers' proposed interim government.]

[Abenina] The number of members of the executive cabinet will be drastically reduced. Our idea upon our assumption is that we shall retain our appointive and elected officials at a certain level, from provincial government down. Those who are corrupt, of public knowledge, automatically kukunin natin 'yan [we wil uproot them]. Preventive suspension, investigation and trial.

We may call for a constitutional convention. If there is a possibility of electing the delegates, we will do that. With the simple task of amending hte Malolos [constitution], updating it. After the ratification of a new Constitution, we will declare an election.

[Morales] Will you declare martial law?

[Abenina] We will not call it martial law but a revolutionary government. Certainly the civil rights of the citizenry will be respected. No search without a warrant issued by the judiciary, no arrest without a warrant, no violations of human rights. It will happen that there will be isolated cases, maybe rampant, but we will try our very best to provide mechanisms whereby the law enforcement will not engage in physical torture.

[Morales] Are you in a position to mount another coup?

[Abenina] Yes.

Aquino Rejects NDF Ceasefire Proposal

42000060B Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English
14 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] President Aquino rejected yesterday the offer of the Communist-led National Democratic Front [NDF] to declare a unilateral ceasefire if she did not enter into a new bases agreement with the United States.

"The NDF's interests do not necessarily coincide with those of our people," the President said in a press statement.

"I reiterate that the future of the bases will be decided on the basis above all of our national interest."

The President is more rebuffed Sen. Wigberto Tanada, a staunch anti-bases advocate who had endorsed the NDF's call. [sentence as published]

Tanada had said that the NDF made the ceasefire offer in a letter sent to him last February 27 by detained NDF leaders Satur Ocampo and Carolina Malay.

NDF is the umbrella group of communist and non-communist organizations following the National Democratic ideology. Its leading members include the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

Tanada had said that the truce offer was a "significant development" as the NDF appeared to have scaled down its demand from the immediate dismantling of the bases to a mere pledge by the President not to renew the lease of the facilities as a condition for peace.

Exploratory talks between Manila and Washington on the future of the bases will start shortly after Easter.

The current lease on Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four other U.S. military installations expires 1991 in accordance with the RP[Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement as amended.

The Constitution mandates that no foreign military bases shall remain in the Philippines beyond 1991 except through a treaty concurred in by the Senate.

Bicol Military Reports Rebel Recruitment Failure

42000060A Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
28 Mar 90 pp 1, 20

[Text] Legazpi City—The Bicol military command (Region 5) reported to Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos yesterday that renegade ex-colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan's recruitment drive has been rejected by the officers and soldiers in the region.

Brig. Gen. Marino Filart, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Regional Command 5 chief, said that Honasan's men—among them Lt. Col. Red Kapunan, Lt. Col. Vic Batac and Capt. Jovey Deonida—have approached the government troopers to

join the ultra-rightist Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldier of the Filipino People (RAM-SFP).

Ramos, who was here for the Regional Peace and Order Consultative Dialogue, assailed Honasan for "his bid to grab power through violence and short-cut method."

Honasan, who was reportedly sighted in Bacolod City and Iloilo, was presumed to be conducting a recruitment campaign prior to launching another coup d'etat against President Aquino and her administration.

Top national security adviser Rafael Iletto, however, has predicted that there will be no coup attempt in the near future.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Federico Ruiz, new Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) commander, said during the meeting that the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) movement remains a threat to the peace and order stability of the Bicol and Tagalog regions.

Ruiz said his 25,000-strong combat troops, supported by naval and air force forces, have yet to contain 2,806 NPA regulars with 2,121 firearms, 1,337 of which are high-powered.

Col. Victor Mayo, commander of the 201st Infantry Brigade, asked defense and military authorities for the activation of a seaborne combat unit to counter the NPA navy, dubbed as "Bagong Nabal ng Bayan" [The Country's New Navy] (Banaba) operating in the coastal areas of Quezon and Bicol sea lanes, using vessels to transport their supplies and giving mobility to the rebels.

Mayo strongly recommended the setting up of an operational seaborne unit composed of Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in San Miguel Bay and Pasacao in Camarines Sur.

Communist Rebels Create Own Government in Cagayan

42000059B Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English
26 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Communist rebels have reportedly set up a shadow government in Cagayan province, run by revolutionary governors and town mayors.

Lt. Col. Percival Aldaba, Cagayan PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] provincial Commander revealed the other day that the supposed seat of the shadow government in an area near Rizal and Sto. Nino Towns in the New People's Army (NPA) infested Zinundungan Valley.

Ousted Cagayan Gov Rodolfo Aguinaldo had singled out the area and had asked Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos to allow him to operate and clear it with NPA rebels.

Outgoing PC/INP Chief Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, after receiving the report from Aldaba ordered all police

and PC units in Cagayan to step-up operations against the NPA's and dismantle the shadow governments.

"Government sovereignty must be imposed even in outlying areas and these shadow government must be dismantled," Montano said.

The rebels, Aldaba further revealed "wields pseudo authority over some 190 families in barangay of Masi, San Juan Sur, San Juan Norte, Rizal town and Lagu, Sto. Nino."

Aldaba identified the revolutionary governor as Bernabe Lacua alias "Ali" who was officially designated by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). He added that Lacua is assisted by six other rebel leaders headed by a certain "Ka Roque."

Aldaba claimed that the PC/INP had partially dismantled the revolutionary government in town level by arresting Jovito Domingo alias "Ka Jong" and Dominador Calumag, alias "Belbon," the supposed revolutionary mayor and vice mayor respectively of Lasam town.

Isabela PC/INP Provincial Commander, Lt. Col. Clyde Fernandez on the other hand told Montano that communist rebels are harassing legitimate loggers by collecting revolutionary taxes.

Hernandez said some Joggers had complained that NPA's had already given them notices and warning that if they will not cooperate, the rebels will sabotage their business.

Among those who complained, Fernandez said were the Consolidated Sawmill in Jones' Green Valley Timber Corp. and a certain Eliseo Cruz of Ilagan town.

Fernandez also said the CPP-NPA have started their own agrarian reform program in San Miguel Town with the establishment of the "Probisyal na Komite sa Reporma sa Lupa." [Provisional Committee of Land Reform]

He said the committee is used "land titles" bearing the signature of a certain Antonio Tacis, alleged head of the national Democratic Front in Isabela province.

Fernandez added that the NDF distributed to farmers a 200-hectares land in Roxas town.

Honasan, Escorts Spotted in Negros

42000059A Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English
26 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Cashiered Army Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan, acknowledged leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) which launched the sixth and the most serious coup attempt against the government last December, was reportedly spotted in Negros Occidental, the Negros military yesterday said.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque, chief of the Negros Island military Command (Nicom) revealed that Honasan, together with several armed men believed to be discharged soldiers were recently sighted by civilians especially in the central part of the province where businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco maintains agricultural farms.

Honasan's presence in Negros, according to Jarque was only revealed lately by some civilian who personally saw Honasan accompanied by plainclothes men toting sophisticated firearms in an area near La Granja, La Carlota City three weeks ago.

The place is some 50 kilometers east of the capital city of Bacolod. It is where the coconut plantation of Cojuangco

which he converted from sugarcane farms is located, Jarque said. He added that there is an airstrip in La Granja situated near the national highway and amidst a wide sugarcane plantation, which is adjacent to the Cojuangco farms.

Jarque expressed disgust that the reports about Honasan's presence reached him late, so that they were not able to launch a dragnet against the most wanted rebel officer who carries a P5 million reward for his capture.

"We are checking all these reports," Jarque said adding that he would not discount the possibility that Honasan is frequenting the province since he has many relatives in Negros.

High Commissioner to Mauritius Appointed

90AF0055A Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French
28 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] Relations between Mauritius and Singapore, which have become increasingly important in recent years, will assume a more formal character with the accreditation of a Singaporean high commissioner, Mr. H.R. Hochstadt, and the visit to Mauritius early this week of Mr. Peter Sung, Singapore's minister of state for foreign affairs.

Mr. Sung held talks on Sunday with Sir Satcam Boolell, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. He also met with the prime minister on Monday before returning to Singapore yesterday.

The new Singaporean high commissioner, Mr. Hermann Hochstadt, told LE MAURICIEN that relations at the diplomatic level will give a boost to commercial and bilateral ties between our two countries.

About 60 Mauritians have already received training in Singapore in various domains, as part of that country's technical assistance to Mauritius.

Mr. Hochstadt is also of the opinion that Mauritius's "offshore financial center" could attract bankers and other financiers from Singapore who may be interested in financial activities in Africa.

Mauritius, he said, has the advantage of being halfway between Singapore and London in terms of "time zones." This fact, which is not insignificant, was also discussed with Mr. Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo on Friday, and with Mr. Ramphul, governor of the Bank of Mauritius.

Discussions With Poland on Aircraft Plant*90SE0007E Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 3 Mar 90 p 6*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mr. Yingyong Sithong, the director-general of the Department of Industrial Works, said that the Ministry of Industry has passed a resolution approving the construction of a small aircraft assembly plant in Thailand. The aircraft will be used for cloud seeding and for spraying pesticides. This will also help Thailand's aircraft development. This plant will be built with funds from the Pan Am Company of Thailand and the Pisat Air Company of Poland.

"We have not yet discussed investment capital in detail. But I don't think that this will cost too much. Production plans have already been made. Initially, we will use parts obtained from Poland until we can begin to produce the parts ourselves. As for the aircraft produced, besides using some of the aircraft domestically, we will also sell aircraft to neighboring countries." [passage omitted]

Neutral Camp Plan for Cambodian Refugees Controversy**NSC, Interior Official Comment***90SE0006A Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 8 Mar 90 pp 1, 3*

[Excerpts] Mr. Suwit Suthanukun, the secretary general of the National Security Council [NSC], was interviewed concerning disbanding the Cambodian refugee camps located along the Thai border and establishing a neutral refugee camp instead. He said the prime minister's idea of establishing a neutral camp is one way that could help get the Cambodia refugees to return home voluntarily. And that would help get the Cambodian refugees out of Thailand. The eight refugee centers located at various places would be closed. If someone wanted to return home, we would help them to do so. This would help solve Thailand's problem with these refugees.

A reporter asked what the government's objective is in closing the various centers and opening just one center. Mr. Suwit said that the aim is to end the factionalism among the Cambodian refugees who are now living in various camps. The problem is that these people fall under the influence of different factions. They cannot live where they want. If they are concentrated in one location, this problem will be solved. The refugees will be free to return and find places to live in their own country. This will enable more of them to return home instead of having to stay with a particular faction, such as the Khmer Rouge or Khmer Serei [Free Khmer]. This will also end the criticisms, because they won't belong to a particular faction.

As for whether the High Commissioner for Refugees will agree to this, the secretary general of the NSC said that the United Nations is a charitable organization. They don't want any faction to gain influence over the people. If this can be done, everyone concerned will probably support this. This should satisfy everyone. As for the

Cambodian refugees, today, about 65,000 are under the influence of the Khmer Rouge, about 60,000 are under the influence of the Sihanouk faction, and about 150,000 are under the influence of the Son Sann faction. That is a total of approximately 300,000 people.

Mr. Sano Thianthong, the deputy minister of interior, talked about the prime minister's policy of disbanding the refugee centers and his statement that these are centers of crime. He said that it is clear that there are groups in these camps that the leaders of the factions can't control. They allow their subordinates to leave the camps and rob Thais. We have implemented a policy of not taking them alive, and many have been killed. [passage omitted]

The deputy minister of interior said that the refugee centers are centers of crime. The prime minister's policy is to establish a neutral refugee camp for all the refugees, which will make it easier to supervise them. [passage omitted]

The reporter said that in the past, there was little control and so weapons were bought and sold freely in the refugee camps. Mr. Sano said that we did not not allow weapons to be traded freely. War weapons have been smuggled in and sold secretly. If there were no refugee centers, we could control this more easily. But because there are centers, the Cambodians enter and leave regularly. Greedy Thais have purchased weapons at very low prices, because when Cambodians stop fighting, some of them abandon their weapons. Thais go and collect these weapons. If this is allowed to continue, this could pose a danger. And Cambodians leave the camps and rob Thais. Thais have no other choice. If they catch up with them, there is a fight. They have to be killed.

As for establishing a neutral refugee center in accord with the prime minister's policy, the deputy minister of interior said that it's unlikely that a new center will be built. The refugees will all be moved to one center. If they can be compelled to return to their country, we should do that immediately.

Paper Supports Idea, Criticizes CGDK*90SE0006B Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 13 Mar 90 p 5*

[Editorial: "Close the Refugee Camps, Turn Them Over to the United Nations"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During the past 10 years since Cambodian refugees flooded Thailand and settled down in eight refugee camps near the border, forces of the three Cambodian factions, that is, the Khmer Serei of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Khmer Isara of Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge of Khieu Sampan and Pol Pot, have stayed close to the Cambodian refugees in these camps. The officials in charge of these camps know to which faction the refugees in the various camps belong. The various factions recruit refugees to support them in waging war inside Cambodia. Food and medical

supplies sent by the United Nations to help the refugees is smuggled out of the camps and sent to Khmer Rouge and Khmer Serei troops in support of the fighting. [passage omitted]

We support the prime minister's idea of closing the eight refugee camps, putting the refugees under the control of the United Nations and Thai officials, stipulating that this is to be a neutral refugee camp, and prohibiting forces from the various Cambodian factions from interfering in any way. We have to do this even if this does hurt the three resistance factions and help the government faction of Heng Samrin and Hun Sen. Otherwise, we will never be able to repatriate the more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees to Cambodia. And the Cambodian peace negotiations will continue to drag on as long as the CGDK [Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea] can rely on the refugees as a base of support. The negotiations will never end.

Columnist Blasts Plan, Approach to SOC

90SE0006C Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 10 Mar 90 p 3

[Column by Chalam Khieo: "An Accident"]

[Excerpts] A major event took place quietly at the 6 March cabinet meeting. [passage omitted] I am referring to the announcement made by Mr. Likhit Hongladarom, the deputy spokesman attached to the Office of the Prime Minister. He said that General Chatchai Chunchawan had ordered the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Security Council, and the Ministry of Defense to find a way to disband the various refugee centers and establish a neutral refugee center. All of the refugees will be sent to this one center. The United Nations will be responsible for funding this center. [passage omitted]

Mr. Likhit said that the prime minister has ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to open negotiations with the Heng Samrin government on repatriating all the refugees as soon as possible. I am not sure whether the prime minister said this or not. But in my view, such an announcement by an official at the level of government spokesman is an inexcusable accident.

The Thai government does not have diplomatic relations with the Heng Samrin government. Ordering the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to negotiate with them means that the talks would be official talks. And that is impossible.

It's good that this did not make the headlines, because Thais are bored with the Cambodia problem. They don't want to hear any more about this problem regardless of what happens. But other countries cannot ignore this, because that would indicate that Thailand has adopted a new policy, one that would change the face of the Cambodia problem. [passage omitted]

I hope that this isn't being done in order to encourage the Hun Sen faction. I hope that what happened was just an accident. But that doesn't seem to be the case. Because the next day, Mr. Likhit said the same thing to reporters after being ordered to correct the story concerning negotiations with Heng Samrin. [passage omitted]

"An advisor once said that if they don't stop, the matter will be revealed," said Mr. Likhit. But he didn't make clear to which advisor or to whose advisor he was referring. [passage omitted]

The Cambodian war is a super power war. If Thailand, which is a small country, revealed such secrets, would it be worth it? In dealing with the super powers, there is no need to bow down. But challenging them could be dangerous. I hope that all of this was a mistake and that nothing serious happens.

Drug Firm To Use Country as Gateway to Indochina Trade

42000054B Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
14 Mar 90 p 26

[Text] The world's largest producer of biological health products, Institut Merieux International, plans to use Thailand as a springboard for expanding its operations to Indochina.

Merieux (Thailand) Ltd general manager Philippe Desgautier said the parent company was confident of using Thailand as a base for exports to other countries in the region.

The company sees bright prospects for biological products here due to the large domestic market demand and the rising standard of living.

He said since the company opened a branch office here in 1988 its operations have expanded, with a growth rate of 20% in the first year. It now accounts for a market share in human vaccine products of 45-60.

At present, biological products hold 2.5% of the Thai pharmaceutical market, or about 560 million baht.

He praised the Thai Government's policy of expanding trade with Indochina and said he believed it would succeed in the near future.

Mr Desgautier said this policy had helped persuade the company to expand its operation in Thailand and to use this country as a center for operations in Asia Pacific and Indochina.

The company plans to set up a representative office in Rangoon to import biological products from Thailand for distribution in that country and is looking for means to enter Laos and Vietnam.

"If operations in the Indochina market are successful, I thought in the near future we may decide to produce

human vaccines for local consumption and export here, due to strong demand which has created investment possibilities," he said.

Vaccines

He said the company supplies various vaccines including anti-rabies and for other diseases under the World Health Organization's expanded immunization programme against common childhood diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles and rubella. Another biological product launched here is the hepatitis B vaccine.

These products will be imported directly from France and distributed by the company.

He said the company had collaborated closely with the Thai Red Cross Society in supplying rabies vaccines and the two parties are now negotiating to set up a local facility to package vaccines which is estimated to cost about 50 million baht.

Oranut Comments on Indochina Trade Policy

90OG0143B Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN
in Thai 4-10 Mar 90 p 15

[Text] The policy of the prime minister, General Chatchai Chunhawan, for changing Indochina from a battlefield to a trading area appeared to have advanced another step when the National Security Council (S.M.Ch.) [NSC] resolved that the Department of Foreign Trade should be in charge of setting up the Center for Commercial and Economic Coordination for Indochina, namely, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. The center would handle problems, distribute information and coordinate between governments and private parties.

In the past as trade expanded into Indochina, the governmental units in charge of trade did not have such a center, and as a result the policies concerning these matters were slow in coming. Since the governmental units were scattered, when an individual had a problem, he had to rush to all the various governmental units involved, which wasted time.

Mrs. Oranut Osathanon, the head of the Department of Foreign Trade, told SAPDA WICHAN that now that the S.M.Ch. [National Security Council] had passed the resolution mentioned, the department would proceed to set up a commission consisting of the governmental units involved such as the Customs Department, The Department of Commercial Relations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Finance, the Board of Investment (BOI), and groups from the private sector like the Council for Industry and the Thai Banking Association etc.

One benefit of setting up such a center would be that when a group in the private sector encountered a problem, it would be able to bring the matter to the center for the commission to deal with.

"I think that when many governmental units work together they will be able to find out why trade has not expanded as much as hoped and where the problem lies. Is it because of laws or regulations which could be changed? If we can find the problem, we can begin to correct it together. We think that after the center has been set up, we will be able to work together more closely and quickly. Private parties would know where to get in touch [with the proper official]", Mrs. Oranut said.

In any case she felt that the changes in economic policy of the countries in Eastern Europe would raise new hopes in this area. Although initially the private sector was worried by the political situation, nevertheless it had gained more confidence. There were talks underway about trade and investment at one level already. The Department of Foreign Trade had corrected various regulations which would have been obstacles for trade with the countries of Indochina.

"Especially in Vietnam, if they want people to come and invest and if they want trade to expand, they must change their laws", she felt.

In addition, in order to facilitate greater trade with this area, especially Vietnam, around the first week of May Mr. Subin Pinkhayan, the Minister of Commerce, will travel to Vietnam for talks about trade and investment. What is important is that there might be an exchange of ideas about rice also since Thailand and Vietnam sell a great deal of rice on the world market. It would not be wrong to say that Thailand and Vietnam are competitors in the rice trade. The discussions might concern avoiding great variations in the price of rice.

In any case before Mr. Subin's trip a group of representatives will have to be sent, and the views of private sector officials in Thailand will have to be checked to see if there is any desire to observe or join in any activities. By proceeding in this fashion we will be able to set a date and find out if we are proceeding in the correct direction regarding trade.

As was said in the beginning, the setting up of the center and the appointing of the commission was primarily up to the Department of Foreign Trade. Therefore the center could be put into effect when the Minister of Commerce gave his approval and signed. If everything were then in order, work could begin in earnest next week.

"We feel that this is something worth doing because the opportunity is there. The opportunity for expanding trade is not the fantasy everyone thinks. If all the governmental units work together, if we have sufficient information and the private sector is ready, it will be successful", Mrs. Oranut said in closing.

Further Reporting on Indochina Trade Policy

90SE0007A Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 5 Mar 90 pp 7, 8

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Coordinating Committee for the Expansion of Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian Trade held a meeting on 2 March. This committee, which was established by Mr. Subin Pinkhayan, the minister of commerce, is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, the National Security Council, the Customs Department, the Board of Investment, the national bank, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Forestry Department, and the Fishing Department.

Mrs. Oranut Osathanon, the director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade, said that those at the meeting on 2 March discussed revising the various regulations that pose an obstacle to trade with the Indochina countries.

At the meeting, a resolution was passed to establish an "Operations Center for Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian Economic and Trade Expansion." This will be a central organization responsible for collecting statistical data on trade and investment advances and disseminating the data to those Thais in the private sector who are interested. Another meeting will be held to discuss the details.

As for engaging in trade with the Indochina countries, the meeting focused on formulating a long-term trade line and on formulating an investment line, not just on going in and obtaining raw materials.

In the future, if peace is restored in this region and the three Indochina countries can join together, they will be important competitors, because labor costs in those countries are almost half what they are in Thailand, and they have many raw materials.

The next step is to promote investment in this region. If we invest in certain industries in Vietnam, the profits will be greater than if we obtain raw materials there and process them in Thailand.

This coming May, Mr. Subin Pinkhayan, the minister of commerce, will lead a delegation of people from the private sector and members of the Joint Thai-Lao Committee on the first official visit to Vietnam. The Department of Foreign Trade has contacted the Vietnamese embassy in Thailand, and Vietnam is prepared to receive the Thais.

Those at the meeting also discussed the problem of importing timber from Cambodia through the Khlong Yai checkpoint in Trat Province. The timber importers involved in this have suggested that customs officials inspect the timber on the boats instead of requiring that the timber be offloaded, which is a lot of trouble and which costs money.

A resolution was passed stating that if there is not too much timber on the boats, it can be inspected on the boats. But if there are large quantities, it must be off-loaded in order to prevent the smuggling of contraband.

Marine Artillery Acquisition Reported

90WC0054Z Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 19-25 Feb 90 p 15

[Text] As LAK THAI has reported on at least two previous occasions, the artillery gun with the longest range in the world is the GSN-45 howitzer made by Norikam in Austria. This is a 155-mm artillery piece. Its maximum range in the Middle East, where the temperature was 35 degrees, was 43 km. Its maximum range in Thailand, when fired by marines in the Gulf of Thailand, was 39 km. The barrel of this gun is 45 times the diameter of the muzzle.

The Thai Marine Corps was the first unit in the world to purchase this weapon, that is, it purchased this gun just after it first came on the market in 1977. But although it has been on the market for many years now, it has not been outdated, and there is no other gun of the same size that has a longer range. This is still the main gun in the Marine Corps' Artillery Regiment. It is also used by the army's artillery division.

The reason for discussing this gun once again is that one reader wants to know whether this gun is a self-propelled gun or whether it must be moved by some other means. This reader also said that LAK THAI once reported that this gun is a partly self-propelled gun.

The pictures taken from various angles and sides clearly show that this is not a self-propelled gun. It does, however, have its own transport system, which is limited to use on flat terrain in moving into firing position. Short moves of the firing base are made using an engine, which drives the four forward wheels, which form the gun base. The two rear wheels support the gun barrel in the rear when the gun is being moved. Once the gun has reached its firing position, the wheels on both sides are extended using a hydraulic system in order to form a firing support base.

As a partly self-propelled gun, the terrain dictates how far the gun can move on its own. But it can move on its own to a certain extent without having to be pulled. But if the gun is to be moved long distances, it has to be pulled.

The top photograph shows the gun barrel pointed toward the rear, with the two support wheels set in one position. The middle picture shows the gun coming into firing position. The two rear wheels will be extended to form a firing base. The bottom photograph shows the gun in firing position, with the two rear wheels extended to form a firing base.

BOT Key Leaders Profiled

90OG0143A Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA
in Thai 4 Mar 90 p 14

[Text] At the Bank of Thailand [BOT] there was one routine which high-level officials, such as the director, deputy directors, assistant directors, and administrators of various sections, took part in regularly. They took turns talking and exchanging daily figures and news of important political and economic situations in the office of Mr. Kamchon Sathirakun, the director of the Bank of Thailand, every morning before they separated for their daily work much like a coffee council or kitchen cabinet. The atmosphere of these coffee councils has been good-natured and informal but serious on occasion.

But on last 17 and 18 January the atmosphere of the coffee council at the office of the director was suddenly tense when five assistant directors together with the administrators of the five sections which were the heart of the Bank of Thailand together requested a special meeting with Mr. Kamchon.

Their purpose was to recommend to Mr. Kamchon that as leader of the Bank of Thailand, which was the central institution for maintaining the stability of the monetary system and the strength of the economy, he take a strong, clear position in support of the policy of the bank for solving the serious economic problem which was threatening to get worse, namely, inflation.

They did this because in working with the Ministry of Finance in the past—the recommendations of the Bank of Thailand were disregarded. In addition Mr. Pramuan Saphaosu, the present Minister of Finance, showed disdain for the roles and prestige of the personnel of the Bank of Thailand on many occasions until the scions of this institution could no longer be quiet.

The ten leaders who have created this new tradition in order to revolutionize the image of the bank all have strong ties to this institution. They have all been there more than 10 years. Some have spent most of their lives there. There were five who had been scholarship students of the bank who were obliged to work at the bank after completing school.

If one looked through the biographies of these leaders, one would better understand their thinking. We will start with Mr. Phaisan Kumanwisai. He was an assistant director in charge of legal affairs and all financial institutions and so was called the "enforcer of the Bank of Thailand".

He graduated from Thammasat and then went on to study law at Yale University. He came back to be an appellate court justice until he became secretary to the Minister of Justice. After that he was in the legal office of the Bank of Thailand until he advanced to become an assistant director in 1984.

Mr. Roengchai Marakanon, an assistant director in charge of administration, received a Bank of Thailand scholarship to study at Ke-o University in Japan.

Later he married the granddaughter of Mr. Sommai Huntrakun and so was called the first "grandchild". He started work at the bank in 1970 and became an administrator for banking. He then moved to become deputy manager of the Krung Thai Bank in 1988. He returned to his old location at the end of the same year and was given the position of assistant director immediately.

Mr. Nit Siyaphai, an assistant director in charge of the operation for printing banknotes, has the most seniority. After graduating in accounting from Chulalongkon University, he started work at the Bank of Thailand in 1953, 37 years ago. He advanced to become an administrator for administration and then became a board member of the investment company, Eastern Finance. Last 4 April he returned to become administrator of the operation for printing banknotes before becoming assistant director.

Mr. Wichitra Suphinit was another Bank of Thailand scholarship student. After receiving a master's degree in international economics from Yale University, he returned to work at the bank in 1966. He became an administrator for technology in 1983 and an administrator for banking in 1986. He became an assistant director recently.

Mr. Ekkamon Siriwat was the latest assistant director for personnel and business organization. He was also a scholarship student. After he completed his studies in financial administration and accounting at Harvard University, he returned to work at the bank in 1971. He advanced to become administrator for international operations. He then moved to become administrator for control and inspection of commercial banks before he was transferred to be an official at the International Monetary Fund or IMF for one year. He then returned to be an assistant director at the end of 1989.

Mr. Chaiyawat Wibunsawat was among the "key men" administrators who met that day. He was a scholarship student of the Bank of Thailand. After he received his master's degree from William's College, he continued his studies at MIT and received his doctor's degree. He returned to work at the bank in 1973. He was skilled in technology but advanced to become an administrator for control and inspection of commercial banks.

Because of his exceptional knowledge of finance he was called a "lukrakpa" in the Prem government.

Mr. Siri Kancharoendi received a scholarship from the Bank of Thailand until he obtained his master's degree in economic statistics in Australia and his doctor's degree in econometrics. Then he began to work for the bank in 1976. He advanced to become an administrator in the office of the director and was an administrator for technology. He became known as the "right hand man" for director Kamchon.

Mr. Charung Nu-khwan was another scholarship student. He changed from medicine to economics. He graduated in advanced economics and accounting in England and returned to work at the bank in 1972. He advanced to be an administrator for control of financial institutions and supervision of all trusts.

Mr. Pakon Malakun Na Ayuthaya, after graduating in economics from Queens University in England, trained in accounting until he was expert and then returned to work at the bank in 1968. He was an administrator for the northern branch in 1982. He was an administrator for personnel in 1986, and he was appointed to the board of directors of the Mahanakhon Yukwikrut Bank in 1986 before he returned to be an administrator for banking.

Finally Mr. Prachuap Phanthumchinda, after graduating in accounting from Ruadom, went to work for the Indo-Suez Bank. He came to work for the Bank of Thailand in 1953. He advanced to be an administrator for the northeastern branch in 1984. He became an administrator for deposits and bonds in 1987.

It was clear before now that each of these was very experienced and skilled. The decision to "take on" both Mr. Kamchon and Finance Minister Pramuan at the same time indicates a great deal about their thinking.

Source at Commerce Ministry on Political Interference

*90SE0007C Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 7 Mar 90
pp 7, 8*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A news source in the Ministry of Commerce told NAE0 NA that politics is starting to interfere with the appointment of a deputy under secretary of commerce for international trade negotiations, which is a new position that was authorized for the Ministry of Commerce just recently.

Initially, Mr. Subin Pinkhayan, the minister of commerce, considered the appointment based on the principals and felt that the position should go to Mr. Kroekkrai Chiraphaet, the deputy director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade. Mr. Subin submitted the matter to the cabinet for its "information." This was put on the agenda for the Cabinet's 6 March meeting. There shouldn't have been any problem, because Mr. Phong Sarasin, the deputy prime minister, who is in charge of monitoring the work of the Ministry of Commerce, approved putting this on the cabinet's agenda. And normally, the cabinet entrusts such matters to the minister concerned to make the decision.

But someone secretly removed this from the cabinet meeting agenda. This dismayed Mr. Subin and Mr. Phong. "I knew that there would be a hue and cry. But when I learned who had done this, I was speechless."

The same news source also said that after the cabinet meeting that day, Mr. Subin refused to be interviewed on this matter.

At first, there were reports that the proposal had not been submitted to the cabinet correctly, because it had been done in a hurry. That was why it had been removed from the agenda. But later on, it was learned that this had been done for political reasons. The person who removed this from the agenda was Big M... (not Big Man). He once fell off the political stage but has staged a comeback and is again playing a role. This is because one large political party took him in as a counterweight to certain power groups.

Big M wanted a certain official in the Ministry of Commerce to be appointed to this position, which people think will become more and more important. A check of his background showed that this government official has had dealings with Big M for more than 10 years. That began when he was still a junior government official. During the time that Big M still had power, he helped that official get promoted very quickly.

Actually, there were rumors as early as 2 March that the appointment of a new deputy under secretary of commerce would have repercussions. But no one believed this.

However, it's not true that Big M will be able to put his own man in this position. There are several other groups that are using their power to have one of their group appointed to this position. "There may be some turmoil in the Ministry of Commerce."

Central Bank To Sell Special Bonds

*90SE0007D Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 7 Mar 90
pp 7, 8*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mr. Nowarat Lekhakun, the director of the Office of the Governor of the National Bank, stated that the national bank will sell special bonds in order to take money out of the system in accord with the plan to reduce inflation.

These bonds, which are called bonds of Thailand, have a 1-year term and pay 9.125 percent interest. They are being sold only to commercial banks, financial institutions, and other juristic entities, such as state enterprises and state organizations, that have savings accounts at the national bank.

Those interested in purchasing these bonds must inform the national bank by 16 March. The national bank will make a decision on the sale of the bonds by 23 March. Those who want to purchase bonds must purchase at least 10 million baht worth of bonds each time. It is expected that approximately 30 billion baht worth of bonds will be sold.

The special feature of these bonds is that they can be sold and transferred to others. But each time that this is done, the sale must be reported to and registered with the national bank.

"The economic cabinet and Ministry of Finance have already given us approval to issue these special bonds in

order to take money out of the system and reduce inflation," said Mr. Nowarat.

As for the financial situation in general, Mr. Nowarat said that liquidity is very high, particularly in the commercial banking system. During the period 23 February-1 March, liquidity in the commercial banking system was the highest it has ever been because of the sale of U.S. dollars to the Currency Exchange Rate Maintenance Fund. A total of \$552.80 million were sold. On 28 February alone, a total of \$328.50 million were sold.

Because of the high liquidity, the commercial banks have been borrowing money on the government bond repurchase market by selling fewer government bonds. Daily sales on the repurchase market have averaged only 3.14 billion baht, and interest rates on the repurchase market have dropped to only 4-4.5 percent. Inter-bank loan interest rates have dropped, too. Overnight loan interest rates have dropped to only 4-6 percent. On 2 March, 1-day loans totaling 3,765 million baht were proposed, but no one wanted to borrow money. [passage omitted]

Student Federation Leader on Chawalit, Corruption

90SE0001A Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 12 Mar 90
pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On the afternoon of 11 March at the student center at Thammasat University, Miss Wilasini Mokcharoenphong, the secretary general of the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT), made a statement to the mass media concerning the rumors that Gen Chawalit plans to leave government service and that he has been offered a political position. She said that the SFT agrees with General Sunthon Khongsomphong, the chief of staff officers, who wants people to stop talking about this. The SFT feels that this is interfering in politics too much. General Chawalit has never said what he will do after leaving government service or what political position he wants. And so why do others have to speculate like this?

Miss Wilasini said that the SFT feels that the fact that a person has done a good job in one system is no guarantee that he will do a good job in another system. There is a difference between being a regular government official and being a political official. The SFT does not feel that Gen. Chawalit will destroy the people's democratic system, about which he talks quite frequently, by taking a political position.

The secretary general of the SFT discussed the matter of General Suchinda Khraprayun, the deputy RTA CINC, belittling the House of Representatives. She said that the SFT does not feel that this is a personal matter between Gen. Suchinda and Master Sergeant Songtham Panyadi, an MP from Chiang Rai and the assistant secretary to the

minister of communications. This shows that Gen. Suchinda does not really understand democracy. If this senior officer in the army, who will soon be promoted to the top spot in the army, does not understand the limits of criticism and the limits of democracy, this could be dangerous for democracy. Parliament must find a way to defend its honor. Gen. Suchinda should clarify his views on democracy so that the people understand, and Gen. Chawalit should teach Gen. Suchinda about democracy.

Miss Wilasini said that deception occurs in every system. The SFT is happy that this matter is being investigated. But the SFT is strongly opposed to using this as an excuse to benefit politically, such as by staging a coup. Public deception has occurred in every period, and politicians are not the only ones guilty of this. People in uniform have done this, too. [passage omitted]

As for the proposal to revise the constitution, probably everyone agrees with the proposal to revise the constitution to require the prime minister to be an elected official. However, it should also be revised to require senators to be elected officials, too. Today's senators are not real representatives of the people. Some of these people abuse their rights and deceive the people. [passage omitted] Revising the constitution will not block anybody but will help develop democracy. Both Gen. Chawalit and Gen. Suchinda will certainly approve of this.

Rice Trader on Vietnamese Competition, Export Forecast

42000054A Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
20 Mar 90 p 19

[Text] Thai rice exports in the first two months this year totalled 654,500.69 tons, down 36% from the 1,025,787.56 tons shipped out during January-February 1989, although the general market trend was considered favorable, according to Smarn Ophaswongse, chairman of the Board of Trade's Rice Committee.

Mr Smarn said the January-February 1990 exports were worth 4,778.78 million baht, down from 6,684.1 million baht in the same period last year.

He added that the average export price of Thai rice during January-February this year was 7,301.40 baht per ton, up from 6,516.09 baht a year ago.

He said the sharp drop in Thai rice exports was due mainly to some regular buyers turning to buy medium- and low-grade of rice from Vietnam and Burma which had been selling their rice much cheaper than Thailand.

However, rice supplies in the two countries are limited so they should not pose serious threats to Thai exports later this year.

Mr Smarn is confident that when rice supplies in the two countries are reduced, rice prices on world markets will continue to increase.

He praised the Government's measures helping enable farmers to sell their paddy at good prices.

The state-owned Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives allowed farmers to mortgage their paddy to be sold when the market price increased, helping farmers obtain better prices.

In addition, the Commerce Ministry's purchases of rice from exporters through general bids help maintain the price of paddy during the beginning of the harvest season.

"These measures are considered effective and appropriate for the present situation," Mr Smarn said, adding that this made exporters more careful in making sales.

He also said about half the cereal exports in the period under review were high-grade.

POLITICAL

Do Muoi Greets Australian Counterpart on Reelection

*BK0704150490 Hanoi VNA in English 1547 GMT
6 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi today extended his congratulations to Robert Hawke on his re-election as prime minister of Australia.

In his congratulatory message, the Vietnamese leader expressed his wish for constant consolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between the peoples and governments of Vietnam and Australia, in the interests of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

State Council President's Envoy Visits Brazil

*BK0704161190 Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT
7 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 7—Vietnamese Ambassador to Cuba Do Van Tai, special envoy of State Council President Vo Chi Cong, has visited Brazil and attended the inauguration of President Fernando Collor de Mello.

While there, the Vietnamese ambassador was received by President Fernando Collor de Mello, who expressed his admiration for the heroic Vietnamese people and his desire for further development of the friendly relations between Brazil and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese envoy also called at the Office of the Communist Party of Brazil and was received by Party General Secretary Salomao Malina.

While in Porto Alegre, capital city of Rio Grande do Sul state, Do Van Tai was received by the governor of the state and the mayor of the city.

Ho Chi Minh Birth Centenary Observed in India

*BK1104154390 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT
11 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11 - The All-India Peace and Solidarity Organization has decided to hold seminars meetings and other activities on President Ho Chi Minh in honour of his birth centenary (May 19).

It has also sent petitions to the authority to name a street, a park or a square in India after Ho Chi Minh.

The Indian press carries articles on Ho Chi Minh and on the traditional friendship between Vietnam and India, especially the close relations between the late Indian Prime Minister J. Nehru and President Ho Chi Minh.

The chapter of the India-Vietnam Friendship Association in Calcutta has worked out a programme of action in celebration of Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary,

including exhibitions on his revolutionary life and Vietnam's land and people, the publication of his literary works and articles by Indian authors about the Vietnamese leader, the installation of his statue, and a Vietnamese film festival.

The chapter's president said his organization would submit to the Indian president and prime minister and other famous figures a proposal for the publication of a post stamp carrying Ho Chi Minh's portrait.

Ho Chi Minh City Holds Discussions on Party Work

*902E0181A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
6 Mar 90 pp 1, 4*

[Article by Le Huyen Thong and Nguyen Kien Phuoc]

[Text] It can be said that since the day the south was liberated, never before in Ho Chi Minh City has the political activities atmosphere based on renovation and democracy been so lively as it is today.

Before the Secretariat of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee publicly announced the agenda of the Eight Plenum of the CPV Central Committee, the Propaganda and Training Department of the Municipal CPV Committee held a conference for key cadres from the mass media organizations to discuss the plans and encourage people to contribute many ideas to the party. This political activities campaign included holding discussions on the speech given by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the party, contributing ideas to the reviews prepared by the local party committee echelons, and making concrete proposals for the agenda of the Eighth Plenum of the CPV Central Committee.

The Standing Committee of the Municipal CPV Committee guided experiments at 11 party bases, including three subwards, two villages, and six party organizations directly subordinate to the municipality and central echelon. The ward CPV committees guided experiments at 65 party organizations and party chapters, and each district organized did tests at four to six primary-level units.

The secretary of the Municipal CPV Committee, the chairman of the Municipal People's Committee, and many key leadership cadres in the localities set aside time to attend the sessions and listened to the ideas contributed to the party by people at a number of enterprises, organizations, and municipal labor unions and a number of villages subordinate to Binh Chang, Cu Chi, and Hoc Mon districts.

In general, from the meetings of the ward, district, and block party organizations, mass organizations, committees, sectors, and intellectual and religious circles, the ideas contributed all showed an attitude of loyalty and frankness and sense of responsibility, and it was clear

that the people's intellectual standards are higher than before. SAIGON GIAI PHONG, TUOI TRE, and the municipal radio station promptly reflected the circles that contributed ideas to party building. Various places analyzed each element of the proposals, contributed specific ideas concerning everything from substance to form, literary structure, and phrasing. From this came practical proposals.

However, there were also a number of places that held debates or contributed ideas just for form's sake. And many people expressed ideas with the intention of expressing their displeasure about things concerning them. Many people said that these ideas were very negative and critical and that they put the blame on the party and state. Those who expressed these ideas did not see the responsibility of citizens. Because of this, they could not put forth constructive solutions during renovation.

Where Should We Begin and How Should We Evaluate the Situation?

During the debates, at many bases a major topic was where to begin and how to evaluate the situation. Many people said that posing the problem of renovating and strengthening mass agitation is essential and urgent, even though this should have been done before now. But the main topic of the eighth plenum should be "reorganizing the party in order to carry on mass agitation well" or "launching the masses in order to reorganize the party." They said that the words "strengthening" and "really" should be omitted, because those words imply that things were not good in the past. It was proposed that only the situation during the past 15 years be evaluated, because it was during this period that the problems of bureaucratic centralism and remoteness from the people arose.

Part 1 provided an overview of the situation. Many people wanted an in-depth analysis of the achievements of renovation during the past three years and said that it was inappropriate to use the phrase "has become a revolutionary action movement of the people," because there is no movement that fits the meaning of this.

As for the causes of the situation, many people proposed clarifying the following questions:

Why has social fairness been violated so seriously?

The real situation and the reasons of some degraded and degenerate cadres and party members were analyzed.

People in the Central Committee hold different views. Why hasn't something been done about this?

Many people said that dealing with this problem is very difficult, because there are clusters of negative ideas. Parts of the evaluation of the situation were somewhat optimistic and did not see the serious nature of bureaucratic centralism and remoteness from the people in conditions in which the party leads the administration. The party and state have not implemented fair or

coherent policies regarding the workers, peasants, intellectuals, youths, students, tribesmen, Chinese, and overseas Vietnamese in order to bring about widespread solidarity among the various classes of people.

In general, in many places, people said that the reason for this is that there is still no socioeconomic program or strategy to serve as a basis for carrying on mass work and reorganizing the party. The themes have not clarified the key role of the masses, with the speaker viewing the party as the main character.

Why Must the Problem of Viewpoints Be Placed in the Forefront in Part 2?

Part 2 talked about the targets and then turned to viewpoints and the tasks of mass agitation work. Many people said that the section on viewpoints should come before the section on targets, with the order as follows: viewpoints, targets, and tasks. As for viewpoints, people in many places did not agree with the order of the six problems and proposed that these be rearranged as follows:

First, affirm that the power to control the country belongs to the people. There must be laws, structures, mechanisms, and systems including talented and good-quality people, in order to uphold the legal rights of the people.

Second, affirm the great achievements and leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam. But the idea of "enshrining" the party must be overcome. The idea that the party is above the people and state (in the sense of having power) must be overcome.

Third, legalize the independence of the mass organizations. Some people proposed that the mass organizations be the targets of the party.

Many people stressed viewpoints 4, 5, and 6 in the proposals. Some suggested that viewpoint 5 be placed first. But many others said that viewpoint 5 should not be proposed at all, because the so-called target is actually man.

As for targets, the proposals concerning this were not very clear. Part 3 discussed renovating the party's leadership. As for the targets here, two problems need to be solved:

1. Launching a mass movement in the true sense of the term.
2. The masses, together with the party and state, promoting renovation.

The talk about targets was oriented as follows:

A. After posing the initial questions, the targets, that is, launching the masses to reorganize the party must be determined. That will then provide a basis for mass agitation.

B. Carrying on mass agitation actually means implementing the lines and policies of the party in all spheres. Thus, the targets of mass agitation are the contents of building the economy, society, and the state mechanisms having jurisdiction.

C. Specific problems that are burning issues for the masses, such as democracy, social fairness, opposing bureaucratic centralism, and oppression of the people must be discussed.

As for tasks, many people said that this should not be regarded as a social program as stated in the proposals. Points 1, 2, and 3 of the tasks should be shortened. As for point 4, some people said that this is just a measure and not a task of mass agitation.

In the tasks section, Ho Chi Minh City proposed talking more and being more specific about religion, minority peoples, intellectuals, and overseas Vietnamese. No social element should be omitted, and the literary form and structure should be balanced and cautious so that they do not feel as if they have been left out.

As for specific tasks, many people concentrated on four problems: The party must reorganize itself; democracy must be expanded and social fairness must be implemented; a strong administration must be built; and mass organizations must be built by joining the various classes of people.

What Are the Key, Fundamental Problems?

Many people expressed great displeasure over the fact that part 3, which talked about renovating the leadership of the party, the management of the state, and the activities of the mass organizations, was not presented in line with the situation as evaluated in part 1. Many proposed that the plenum of the CPV Central Committee affirm that the key and fundamental problem is to rebuild the economic, social, and political structure. Because bureaucratic centralism and other negative manifestations arose from the old mechanism (at a time when we were continuing to oppose negative aspects and bureaucratic centralism using various measures just like today, although that is just a specific task).

Many people talked about renovating the leadership of the party, above all about separating the party from the state, returning the mass organizations to the people, and having the party stick to its tasks.

The party leads by promulgating correct lines and policies, by manifesting a vanguard role concerning intelligence and the exemplary role of the cadres and party members, and by inspecting the organization and implementation of things. There is no need to have a large number of party members in the administrative apparatus, and laws should soon be promulgated to guarantee the powers and functions of the mass organizations. Many people stressed that there can be many different ideas but that in our country, there can be only one leading party. The important thing is to stabilize the

political situation so that we can carry on renovation. If there are many parties, the political situation will become disorderly, and the reactionaries will take advantage of this to destroy the revolution. Many people stressed that "while opposing the old dogmatism, we must also oppose the new dogmatism. There are people who have seen other socialist countries try new things in carrying on reform and who want to imitate them without thinking and without starting from the specific situation in their country."

Many people said that reorganizing the party is an urgent task, because unlike in the past, time is no longer on our side. In doing this, there is no need to seek perfection. The important thing is for the party to soon formulate a program. The state must have a socioeconomic strategy in order to bring about political and spiritual unity. The urgent problem today is to reorganize the party—the core of which is the quality and capabilities of the cadres and party members—and repair the mechanism in order to prevent the growth of bureaucratic centralism and negative phenomena. Many bases proposed revising the standards for party members in the new period. In particular, they must have a good relationship with the masses, and they must carry out mass work well. There must be a mechanism to enable the people to supervise party members and contribute to the leadership of the party.

For the renovation of the country, in order to strengthen the close relationship between the party and the masses, the cadres and people of Ho Chi Minh City have contributed many practical ideas to the party. One of the main proposals to emerge from the many ideas contributed was that the party must be reorganized so that the mass agitation work can be done well. Many people said that the themes did not manifest the urgent requirements of the situation, and, therefore, they should be re-written more carefully. People in many places in the city stressed that the problems are very large. Unless things are prepared well, this plenum of the Central Committee should pass only a "resolution on a number of urgent problems of mass agitation."

Hoang Lien Son Holds Discussions on Mass Proselytizing

902E0180A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
7 Mar 90 p 3

[By Nguyen Anh Binh]

[Text] During the first week after the promulgation of the draft report of the 8th Plenum of the VCP [Vietnamese Communist Party] Central Committee, the Hoang Lien Son provincial party committee organized seven forums so that opinions could be contributed to the Party. Some 510 representatives of the circles and sectors—peasants, workers, doctors, teachers, people engaged in press, literature, and art activities, mass association cadres, and a number of retired cadres who held key positions in the localities—participated in the

discussions, along with many comrades of the Hmong, Dao, Tay, Thai, and Giay ethnic groups.

A matter encompassing all opinions was the concern of the Party and state toward the people of the ethnic groups in the mountain region, the relationship between the Party and mass associations and the people in the high-altitude areas, with consideration for the special characteristics and the difficult situation in that region.

Lessons of the "Even Share Roasted Cassava" Period

Comrade Ha Dinh Khiem, head of the provincial civilian proselytizing committee, and comrade Ha Lat, a member of the Tay ethnic group and vice chairman of the Provincial Fatherland Front Committee, repeated a question asked by people of the ethnic groups: "Why do Party cadres seldom come to the highland villages nowadays?" He recalled that in the period before the revolution and during the resistance war everyone, from young troops to high-ranking Party cadres, who went to a remote village knew how to do mass proselytizing. Everyone knew to ask the opinions of the old people in the village, how to care for children, and how to respect the customs of each ethnic group before carrying out other tasks, such as mobilizing people to do civilian labor, contribute grain to feed the troops, and care for wounded and ill soldiers. At times the sentiment between the cadres and people was closer than that between blood relatives, to the degree that when a difficult problem arose and the people asked the opinion of a cadre, they regarded the cadre's advice as being the most correct. In places the cadres even brought an end to the traditional enmity between two clans. That was the period of "even sharing roasted cassava" which, unfortunately, today many comrades working in the mountain region have forgotten. Comrade Giang A Sinh, a member of the Hmong ethnic group who lives in Mu Cang Chai, related a truth: "In places where cadres and party members are not in contact with the people, sorcerers and priests appear and take the title 'Cat King,' the consequences of which everyone surely knows."

One opinion expressed during the conference of the mass proselytizing bloc was that "In some areas in which the Dao people grow cinnamon their material and spiritual lives have clearly been improved, and a number of fixed cultivation and habitation points have been successful, thanks to the results of the efforts of Party cadres who once climbed mountains and waded streams to live with the people, and who were extremely devoted to the liberation of the ethnic minority peoples from poverty and backwardness. That could not have been achieved if they had only 'given instructions' and 'doled out funds'."

"Are those lessons still valid today?" asked Mrs. Thao Van Chan, a member of the Hmong ethnic group and vice chairman of the Provincial Peasants' Association, who answered affirmatively. A number of cadres attending the meeting proposed that every comrade who is a VCP Central Committee member, a minister heading a sector, or the head of a mass association at the

central level should make a practice of at least once a year visiting a village in the mountain region to make in-depth studies and resolve problems, and not merely visit the provincial capital or, at best, a district seat, to listen to reports, as they do now. Although it is not essential to duplicate the work style of the resistance war period, directly and attentively listening to people at the basic level will certainly help in adopting stands and policies that are more appropriate, especially toward the mountain region, an area with special characteristics.

At the meetings held to contribute ideas, all agreed that the style of being close to the people should not just be a habit of cadres at all levels and sectors (not just Party cadres and organizations), but an obligation that must be inspected and examined: this point should be included in the Party's Resolution Eight. Many representatives pointed out a characteristic of work in the mountain region: cadres doing economic work do not merely participate in production and purchasing, while leaving the mass proselytizing work to the party and mass association cadres. There is no separation of functions, as in the other localities: everyone, from people doing commercial and agricultural work to teachers and medical cadres, no matter at what level or whether they are party members or not, must first of all know how to do mass proselytizing, for only thereby can they later achieve the desired results in their specialized work.

Social Justice From Many Angles

In the Province of Hoang Lien Son there are different population areas and echelons: cities, towns, peasants in low-altitude areas, and ethnic minority people in the high-altitude areas. In the course of the discussions, something with which many people were concerned was that the achievement of social justice has separate manifestations in each area and must be appropriately analyzed and dealt with.

Comrade Do Van Lien, chairman of the provincial labor federation, along with many other representatives who were peasants in Minh Bao village and retired cadres from Yen Bai City, pointed out that honest workers were still living in poverty. Most of the workers and retired people still have to earn their livings day-to-day, while the dishonest merchants soon become rich, lead luxurious lives, and are impudent toward the law. But in the obligation of defending the motherland, "priority" is reserved for the children of workers, while studying at higher levels and passing examinations are usually reserved for people with a lot of money, people who have money to study full-time, hire teachers, and obtain positions. The draft report stresses the role of the people, but it must be made clear who the "people" are, and the people must not be "won over" in a "demagogic" way.

A matter posed by comrades in the labor federation must also be debated and clarified. Those comrades think that Resolution 217-HDBT has a flaw: it did not limit maximum incomes in the enterprises, so there have been some irrational "applications" of it. Some directors give

incomes or "bonuses" to one another amounting to millions of dong, while some workers receive only a few tens of thousands of dong, but there is nothing to measure contributions to justify those excessively disparate incomes. That is also a matter of social justice, which is experienced in the very ranks of the workers.

The people of Yen Bai City gave must proof of injustice in the organs responsible for carrying out laws. Some incidents amounting to only very simple civil disputes are allowed to drag on two or three years without satisfactory resolutions. In some very serious cases the perpetrators have easily been able to stay out of jail. The people have the right to ask why that situation exists. Either those sectors are too weak professionally or there is suspicion of negative manifestations. Both weaken confidence in the organs executing laws and result in an even worse consequence: people "take things into their own hands," which is a manifestation of anarchy.

In all meetings, the common thread in many opinions was the policy toward the mountain region and the ethnic minority groups. That is the responsibility of many echelons and sectors, including the state economic sectors. Representatives of the high-altitude districts of Muong Khuong, Bat Xat, Tram Tau, and Mu Cang Chai said sending salt to the high-altitude areas was a manifestation of our regime's concern for the people, but now, because of the commercial mechanism, there are problems, because there are products which are lighter, less costly to transport, and more profitable. There is a similar situation regarding the other essential needs for production and life in the high-altitude areas. On the other hand, the mountain region is still regarded only as a source of supply for raw materials. Cinnamon, wood, and tea in Hoang Lien Son provide much smaller incomes for the producers than for the corporations which have the right to export and import. The comrades in charge of the mass proselytizing section of the provincial party committee and the provincial Fatherland Front Committee asked why the people of the mountain region, who have sacrificed their lives and contributed to the revolution before political power was won, have shared less in socialism.

Giang Xeo My, of the Hmong ethnic group, asked about training ethnic minority youths in the mountain region, which at present largely depends on the limited local budgets and does not amount to much. The problem lies not in "special concern," granting additional points for admittance into one school or another, in a "patronizing" manner, but in having plans to train a new generation of ethnic minority cadres from among the present generation of youths, accompanied by a process of cultivation and selection. That must be regarded as a long-range policy of the party and state. There must also be a satisfactory policy toward lowland cadres who go to work in the mountain region, and we must bring an end to the situation of graduates who remain in the cities being well-off in many regards while those who go to the highland areas suffer. That also manifests injustice and must quickly be overcome.

Comrade Giang A Sinh expressed an opinion during a provincial party conference: understanding the mountain region and the ethnic minority people is the responsibility of many echelons and sectors, from the central level down to the basic level, and of all cadres, party members, and state and mass association personnel, and is not merely the responsibility of the party committee echelons. It must be done with all-out love for the people, not just administratively. To do so is to carry out the party's nationalities policy and do the best job of carrying out mass proselytizing in that area. Is not that thought by a Hmong party member the recapitulation of a cadre who has worked for years in the ethnic minority areas?

MILITARY

Special Privileges for Officials Decried

902E0189B Hanoi *QUAN DOI NHAN DAN*
in Vietnamese 4 Mar 90 p 1

[By Nguyen Viet Son]

[Text] Since the Sixth Party Congress, many resolutions and directives of the party and state, and many speeches of various leaders have severely criticized the special privileges and interests extremely irrationally existing in the life and society of our country. The program of the Eighth Plenum of the Party Central Committee (Session VI) in party civilian proselytism stated clearly, "Renovate the leadership of the party, the management of state agencies and the activities of public political and social organizations. Build and gradually perfect socialist democracy to ensure the true authority of the people while eliminating bureaucratism, corruption, special privileges and interests, and other negativisms."

In further considering the articles of this program, the special privileges and interests of a number of party member cadres are one of the three "poisons" eroding public confidence in the party.

Extremely praiseworthy is that our party's civilian proselytism program this time issued a regulation eliminating special privileges and interests within the apparatus of the party and state. Eliminating special privileges and interests will surely assist in strengthening the prestige of the party, restoring public confidence in the party, and reviving a revolutionary spirit among the masses.

However, a problem long existing among both party members and the masses like a constant torment is that: resolutions are always good and firm, calling for an extremely bright future; but achievement is substandard and half done due to a lack of necessary determination from those in charge. The elimination of special privileges and interests must rely not only on education and appeals for vigilance, but compulsory stipulations and regulations. At the present time, we are lacking these things and so, elimination of special privileges and interests is at times seemingly only a slogan.

During the past few years in an atmosphere of democratization, those enjoying special privileges and interests have lessened their arrogance. However, a number of cadres and party members in position and power still have many kinds of special privileges and interests that will require accompanying regulations from the party and state before they are eliminated.

For example, the privileges and interests of not a few cadres entitled to an automobile to take them to work each day must be examined, not only from the economic aspect but as a social and psychological issue. Everyone knows that our country is still very poor, one of the poorest in the world. However, the number of automobiles used by the state to chauffeur cadres is too great. In one city, countless cadres are issued automobiles for a "morning ride" in and an "evening ride" back. Service directors, deputy service directors, general corporation directors, and in the course of time, corporation directors and enterprise directors use one reason or another to haphazardly and wastefully use automobiles. They usually use the automobiles on a "requisition" basis. One contradiction can be seen by everyone: the general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers use Lada vehicles but an equivalent ward-level cadre can use a capitalist vehicle if the "independently acquired" capital of the agency or enterprise permits. It is truly unusual that to this time, some still think that because "independently acquired" capital is not state money, it can be spent as one pleases. Purchases announced as for the agency and collective are really to serve a few individuals.

Most of our cadres now live among the people in collective areas. Those riding unmatched bicycles to work clearly understand those being chauffeured in automobiles, from their personality, abilities, and merits to the slipshod situation and deficit operations of the agencies that they "head." Thus, the "bicycle wing" mutters, chats, grumbles, and finally loses confidence. The chauffeuring of these individuals has become a cause for psychological division among the people. The concept of "people and officials" is steadily and more profoundly nourished. The party's task of civilian proselytism is gradually declining in effectiveness.

Actually, the use of automobiles has been discussed more than once by our state. It has been heard that those accustomed to their use have reacted in a very severe manner. Their reasoning is that it is for the country and the people. They say that requiring a cadre reaching a certain rank to ride a bicycle is harmful to the work. Worn out from riding his bicycle to the agency, the chief's brain cannot be sharp enough to lead, manage, and direct the work. However, there is also the rebuttal that after countless years of traveling to work by automobile, their work is still flat and operations still plod along with no recognizable developments at all. Moreover, if riding a bicycle a few kilometers in the morning seriously and adversely affects the leadership strength of someone, he should withdraw and allow someone with sufficient health to work.

In short, the state must immediately issue firm regulations on the use of automobiles to chauffeur cadres to work each day. The recipients of this system should be restricted to the level of vice ministers, equivalent positions, and above. A municipality directly subordinate to the central government should have chauffeur-driven automobiles for the chairman, vice chairmen, and equivalent levels. The armed forces and scientific and technical cadres should have separate regulations.

Only the use of chauffeur-driven automobiles for cadres has received much discussion. There are also many other issues such as: housing, medical treatment, foreign travel, etc. for which the party and state must also promptly issue firm regulations. In few but decisive words, resolute action to eliminate the special privileges and interests of a few cadres at the present time would produce no small results.

ECONOMIC

Relief Center Built With U.S. Financial Assistance

BK0504091690 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT
5 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 5—The construction of a humanitarian relief center started recently in the Central Coastal Province of Quang Nam-Danang.

The project is sponsored by the province's Red Cross Organization with financial assistance of "East Meets West," a humanitarian organization of the United States.

The centre is to provide health care, food and vocational training to handicapped and helpless people and orphans. The project is expected to be completed within five years with annual fund of some 70,000 U.S. dollars.

Earlier, also with the assistance of the "East Meets West," a clinic had been built in the war-torn commune of Hoa Quy, Hoa Vang District, at the cost of 67 million Vietnamese dong.

Radio Discusses Rights of Workers in GDR

BK1304080990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] On 11 April, the paper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in the GDR carried an article on Vietnamese workers under the title "Too Costly a Price of Friendship for Enterprises." The article noted:

According to an agreement signed between the GDR and Vietnam, Vietnamese workers are entitled to take home leave once every five years of working in the GDR, with air tickets to be paid for by the enterprises concerned. However, the tendency of having Vietnamese workers pay for the air tickets themselves or forfeit their home leave is becoming increasingly popular. This shows that the agreement between the two governments is not executed despite the fact that it still remains valid.

Under the pretext of being pressured by the growing capitalist marketing economy, by the increase in the number of unemployed people, and by the decrease in labor productivity, a number of cadres in enterprises that employed Vietnamese workers have sympathized with this tendency. However, there are also people who have strongly protested against this matter and have demanded that the agreement be duly executed.

French Group Gives Gift to Students Union

*BK0804084590 Hanoi VNA in English 0721 GMT
8 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 8—The Central Committee of the Vietnam Students Union has received 8,000 French francs as gift from the Association of Old-Aged Vietnamese Nationals in Bordeaux, France.

The sum will be used to provide annual scholarships for poor and physically-handicapped students or sick students hospitalised for prolonged periods of time, or as incentives to excellent students.

Earlier, the Vietnam Students Union had received several million dong (Vietnamese currency) given by the joint Franco-Vietnamese Genpacific [as received] also for use as scholarships.

Australian Envoy Presents Gifts

*BK0404090290 Hanoi VNA in English 0729 GMT
4 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 4—Australian Ambassador to Vietnam Graham Richard Alliband has presented the Foreign Trade College with a quantity of English textbooks and teaching aid worth 5,000 U.S. dollars. The Australian embassy in Vietnam has also given financial assistance to the Ministry of Forestry in compiling, translating, and printing a book on sandalwood afforestation.

Red Cross Relief Aid Given for Storm Victims

*BK3103084490 Hanoi VNA in English 0825 GMT
31 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31 - The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCRCS) has just handed 45 tons of rice, 75 tons of cement, 25 tons of iron and 3,500 mosquito nets over to the central coastal province of Thanh Hoa (160 km south of Hanoi) as relief aid to the local storm victims.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony in Nhu Xuan district on March 30, Bastiaan Vuyk, LRCRCS representative in Vietnam acclaimed the great efforts of the Vietnam Red Cross in helping the local victims overcome the consequences of the natural calamities.

The LRCRCS plans to provide similar relief to the central coastal provinces of Nghe Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri. Its aid includes 400 tons of rice, 500 tons of cement, 200 tons of iron and 23,000 mosquito nets.

Last July, the Typhoon Irving ferociously lashed at Thanh Hoa, taking 102 lives, injuring 488 people and pulling down tens of thousands of houses. Right after the disaster, the LRCRCS sent a great quantity of medicines, blankets and mosquito nets as emergency aid to the province.

SOCIAL

Notorious Smuggler Arrested

*BK0604103690 Hanoi VNA in English 0718 GMT
6 Apr 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—A notorious smuggler, Huynh Binh Phuoc, resident of Rach Gia town in the southern province of Kien Giang, was arrested on February 21, 1990 on the charge of bribery and organized smuggling of gold, foreign exchange and other contraband items.

Huynh Binh Phuoc's contraband trade network has links in Cambodia, Thailand and Singapore. He used to bribe customs, security and administrative officers into legalizing or conniving at his smuggling activities. At the time of his arrest, the authorities recovered from his possession four villas, each valued at 200 taels of gold, a car, a 12-seat van, four big fishing trawlers, a new truck, four motorcycles, one million U.S. dollars and billions of Vietnamese dongs in cash, 50 kilograms of pure gold, and other imported goods.

Huynh Binh Phuoc and his accomplices, including more than a dozen corrupt officers in the local law enforcement apparatus, will be brought to trial soon.

Health Worker Arrested for Smuggling Medicine

*BK0604151990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 4 Apr 90*

[Text] After months of persistent investigation, agents of the Speculation and Smuggling Suppression Squad of the Ha Son Binh Province Public Security Service's Economic Police Section recently uncovered a smuggling operation in Ha Dong City involving a large quantity of medicine. Nguyen Thi Thanh, a mid-level technician at the Public Health Service's Sanitation and Epidemic Prevention Station, was caught carrying more than 20 kg of assorted medicines. A search of Thanh's house by the Economic Police turned up more than 100 kg of 54 injectable medicines, mostly antibiotics and health supplements, which are suspected of being fake. It is worthy of note that earlier, between 1985 and 1988, Nguyen Thi Thanh was arrested on four occasions by security agents in Ha Dong City and in Hoai Duc and Tu Liem Districts of Hanoi for illegally dealing in medicine, both real and fake.

Although Thanh operated with a great deal of discretion and took cunning steps to forestall investigation by the police, many people in Ha Dong City, including Public Health Service cadres and personnel, had been aware of her illegal business activities for a long time. Therefore, the public greatly welcomed her arrest. Nevertheless, people are anxiously waiting to see what action the

organs of law will take against Thanh, a repeat offender against whom criminal charges have never been brought.

Second Issue of Science Journal Published

*BK3103141990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 30 Mar 90*

[Text] Assisted by various professional associations, scientific and technological centers, and units and enterprises, the magazine KHOA HOC VA TO QUOC [Science and Fatherland]—organ of the Vietnam Union of

Science and Technology Associations, voice of scientists and technicians, and friend of science amateurs—has published issue no. 2.

With its diversified contents, the magazine has plenty of information on various questions on scientific achievements being debated or elucidated in the country and the world, thus allowing intellectuals to contribute opinions on the country's major issues as well as to satisfactorily perform their functions as researchers, consultants, and debaters.